



LEGO BATMAN

Is the new Lego Batman movie good for kids?

SEE PAGE 17

CELEBRATING FAITH, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY IN KANSAS CITY

VOLUME 28 • NUMBER 3

March 2017

FREE-TAKE ONE!

Christianity as violent as Islam?

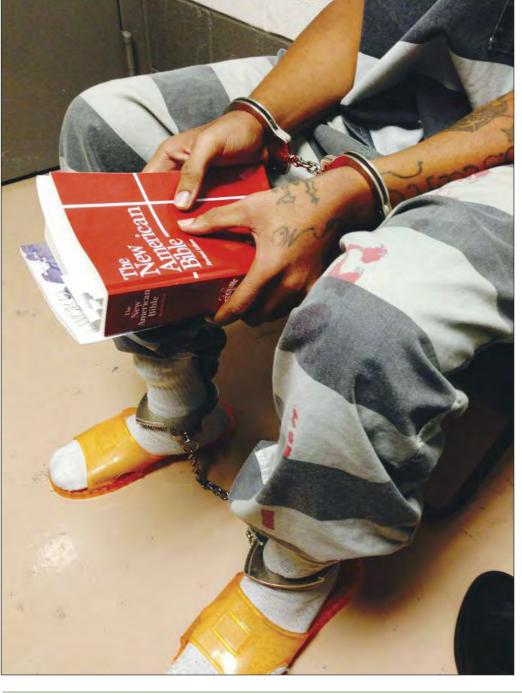
Shocking poll exposes how many believe Christianity encourages violence



Despite the numerous jihadist terrorist attacks on American soil, Democrats continue to maintain the politically correct mindset that the Islamic holy book, the Koran, is relatively peaceful – similar to the Bible of Christianity or the Torah of Judaism

"The trusting attitude toward Islam revealed in the February 2017 poll follows 17 tumultuous years of attacks against Americans motivated or shaped by Islamic ideology throughout the United States – from the 9/11 atrocity to

■ See RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE page 22



You visited me in prison

Faith groups partnering with states to help make released convicts productive citizens

by **Dwight Widaman**

Jesus' words in Matthew 25:36 are among the most quoted from the New Testament: "I was in prison and you visited me." However, although prison ministries in Kansas and Missouri have had increasing access to prisoners for decades, their presence in publicly funded prisons faces opposition.

Detractors have cited the Establishment Clause in the First Amendment as requiring separation of church and state. Even so, the vital role of such

organizations has become increasingly prominent in the criminal justice system over the last half-century. The number one reason? Results.

"As you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."

Faith-based organizations have many advantages in mobilizing volunteers to serve in prisons.

Their methods and messaging often also have superior impact on prisoners over comparative secular programming. As a case in point, Jackson County became just the

See PRISON page 23

Still, small voice brings miraculous results for KS accident victim

"I felt like the Holy Spirit told me that I needed to do something"

by **Dan Van Veen**

It was Saturday, Sept. 17, and it was surreal—like driving by a movie set or re-enactment. A motorcyclist, who was not wearing a helmet, had apparently clipped the back of a trailer being towed

by a pickup truck on a two-lane highway. The impact caused the biker to lose control, putting the bike into a slide, and throwing the man from his seat and rolling him down the road like a rag doll. As Geoff McLarty drove up moments later, the man was lying on his back, motionless. The skin of his bare head had been ripped open, blood soaking the pavement where he had come to rest.

McLarty, 31, the creative arts pastor at Evangel Assembly of God in Wichita for the last four years, has no formal medical training, was unsure of how to perform CPR, his wife and young son were in the car with him, and it appeared someone was already calling for help.

It was decision time . . . it would be easy to simply keep on going.

■ See ACCIDENT page 23



Metro Voice PO BOX 1114 Lee's Summit, MO 64063

BROWNBACK SENDS LETTER TO PRESIDENT

Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback has sent a letter of encouragement to pro-life President Donald Trump, pro-life Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), and pro-life Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.)

In his letter, Brownback asks the President and the congressional leaders to "grasp the opportunity to proclaim and protect the dignity of life." He addresses four pieces of legislation:

- Defunding Planned Parenthood
- Pain-Capable Act
- Dismemberment Abortion Ban
- Sex-Selective Abortion Ban

Defunding Planned Parenthood is a top congressional priority. Planned Par-



ceives over a half-billion dollars from the federal treasury annually. In a weekly press conference, Ryan said ending taxpayer funding would be included in the budget reconciliation legislation. Last year, pro-abortion President Barack Obama vetoed similar legislation.

enthood, the largest

abortion provider re-

The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protec-

tion Act has been introduced by pro-life Rep. Trent Franks (R-Ariz.), and has 74 co-sponsors. It passed the House in 2015. It was introduced in the Senate by pro-life Senator Lindsey Graham (R- "National Right to Life is working closely with congressional leaders who are committed to passing protective legislation."

S.C.) but passage was waylaid by the Senate practice of requiring 60 votes to pass "controversial" legislation.

The Dismemberment Abortion Ban Act was reintroduced by Rep. Chris Smith. It was introduced last year in the Senate by pro-life Senator James Lankford (R-Okla.) and in the House by Rep. Smith (R-N.J.), with co-sponsor Missouri Congresswoman Vicki Hartzler (R) and others. The bill is also based on model legislation provided by the National Right to Life Committee.

Sex-Selective Abortion Ban [the "Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act"] was also introduced last month by Rep. Franks. It has 55 co-sponsors. The measure failed in 2012 in the House, not because it did not get an overwhelming number of votes—246 to 168—but because it was considered under rules that required a two-thirds majority for passage.

Jennifer Popik, JD, NRLC federal legislative director, says that NRLC applauds Brownback for encouraging Congress and the president to enact prolife laws.

"National Right to Life is working closely with congressional leaders who are committed to passing protective leg-

Secret Keeper Girl puts 'princess culture' into perspective for tween girls

Is "princess culture" harming young girls? Research featured in The Washington Post in 2016 indicates it is. As the Post wrote, the princess culture "suggests that a girl's most valuable asset is her beauty, which encourages an unhealthy preoccupation with physical appearance."

Moms of tween girls probably understand this better than researchers, and many, especially Christian moms, are looking for resources to help them get ahead of the cultural pressure on their girls.

"When our daughter was about to enter middle school, my husband and I wanted to be proactive in our conversations about self-image and modeling of self-confidence, Godly character, and modesty," says Overland Park mom Lori Andersen.

One of their favorite resources was Secret Keeper Girl, a national touring stage show aimed at tween girls and their moms. The tour, which is coming back to the Kansas City area on Saturday, March 25, was created by best-selling Christian author Dannah Gresh.

Gresh has long built a case for teaching age-appropriate modesty by pointing to the fact little girls who are exposed to products and marketing that promote sexuality are more likely to experience depression, body image



A mom and her daughter share a special moment.

issues and an early sexual debut as teens. She claims it's not the concept of being a princess, but "princess-driven" marketing that harms girls.

"Being a princess is not bad," says Gresh, adding the princess culture isn't going to go away, so parents need to redefine what it means. "We have many modern princesses who devote their lives to charitable causes, but spend very little time in a ball gown and tiara. They use their royalty to serve others."

Gresh asserts an improper definition of princess encourages an unhealthy self-image.

"Our bodies aren't bad and nei-

ther is being beautiful," she says. "As moms, we need to define princess so that a girl understands her value but doesn't make too much of herself. This gives her what we call body confidence, making her aware of her body's purpose and value, while empowering her to be a protector of others."

The Purple Party Tour—Secret Keeper Girl's fifth themed tour— is a Bible-based relationship-building experience for moms and their tween daughters (typically ages 7-12). The two-and-a-half-hour event features a fun fashion show that demonstrates

■ See TWEENS page 20



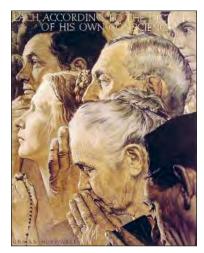
Americans growing more responsive toward variety of religious groups

Jews, Catholics continue to receive warmest ratings, atheists, Muslims move from cool to neutral

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On the heels of a contentious election year in which partisan politics increasingly divided Americans, a new Pew Research Center survey finds that when it comes to religion, Americans generally express more positive feelings toward various religious groups today than they did just a few years ago. Asked to rate a variety of groups on a "feeling thermometer" ranging from 0 to 100, U.S. adults give nearly all groups warmer ratings than they did in a June 2014 survey.

While Americans still feel coolest toward Muslims and atheists, mean ratings for these two groups increased from a somewhat chilly 40 and 41 degrees, respectively, to more neutral ratings of 48 and 50. Jews and Catholics continue to be among the groups that receive the warmest ratings – even warmer than in

Evangelical Christians, rated relatively warmly at 61 degrees, are the only group for which the mean rating did not



Norman Rockwell's iconic painting on faith and personal concience.

change since the question was last asked in 2014. Americans' feelings toward Mormons and Hindus have shifted from relatively neutral places on the thermometer to somewhat warmer ratings of 54 and 58, respectively. Ratings of Buddhists rose from 53 to 60. And mainline Protestants, whom respondents were not asked to rate in 2014, receive a warm rating of 65 in the new survey.

The increase in mean ratings is broad-based. Warmer feelings are expressed by people in all the major reli-

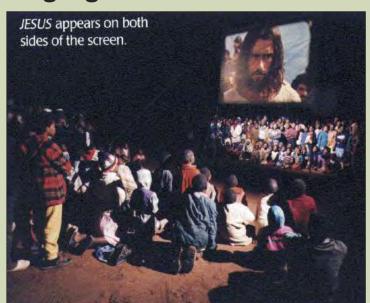
■ See POLL page 7

IVE EVENT for 7-12 year olds on Modesty & True Beauty/ Modesty Fashion Show Mom & Daughter Time Biblical Teaching Interactive Games The Most Fun A Mom & Daughter Will Ever Have Digging Into Gods Word! SecretKeeperGlrl.com Saturday, March 25, 3:30 pm **Nall Avenue Baptist Church** Tickets \$15

ind us on acebook.com/metro voice news



Jesus Film one step closer to reaching all 7,000 documented languages around the world



ORLANDO - In an exciting development, Jesus Film Project has announced the language group representing its 1,500th translation of "JESUS," – the most watched film in history, according to *The* Guinness Book of World Records. This translation is another step in reaching the unreached people groups as part of Jesus Film

Project's Mission 865, according to a media release.

"JESUS" has been viewed by billions of people around the world since its release in 1979. More than 200 million people have made decisions to accept Christ as their savior as a result of watching the film. Mission 865 is Jesus Film Project's initiative to reach the 865 language groups in the world representing roughly 323 million people who have not heard the gospel of Jesus. The organization's goal has begun with a commitment to reach these groups with Jesus' story in their own language by 2025. —Michael Ireland, ASSIST News Service

Lobby Day to fill Jeff City with pro-life consituents

Tuesday, March 14, the pro-life community will descend on the Missouri State Capitol for the annual Missouri Right to Life "Show Me Life" Action Day. The public is invited to attend and visit their state legislator, hear special speakers and pray. The event is not confrontational but rather conversational, as people from across the state visit with their local representatives.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. with a Noon rally. This year's rally features Reagan Barklage, Students for Life, and Melissa Ohden,. Abortion Survivors



Network. Ohden survived a failed saline infusion abortion in 1977 and was ultimately delivered. In 2012, she founded The Abortion Survivors Network which seeks to educate the public about failed

abortions and survivors while providing emotional, mental, and spiritual support to abortion survivors.

This year there are three areas deemed priority legislation that will be discussed by leaders of the pro-life movement with legislators:

• Tighten abortion clinic inspection statute to require at least one annual onsite inspection of abortion facilities and require an accounting report for the disposition of all tissue from aborted babies.

■ See RALLY page 22



Just about every church has a dedicated effort to support missionaries. For many churchgoers however, the support they provide ends with the checkbook or occasional fundraising banquet. That doesn't mean that people want their interest to end there. Kate Motaung has been writing about missions for years and exploring the intersection of the church and missions. She has found that the average Christian does want to be more involved and encourage missionaries but often does not know where to begin. Here are some ideas from Motaung for supporting missionaries that will enrich your church community and family and make you feel a part of a broader local or global effort at evangelizing the lost.

- 1. Read their updates. Like, actually read them.
- 2. Reply to their newsletters, even if it's just one line, to say, "Thanks for the update."
- 3. Pray for them. Set aside a specific time, maybe one evening a week, that is specifically designated for praying for certain missionaries and their work.
- 4. If you have prayed for them, tell them. It can be encouraging to hear, "I'll pray for you," but how much more so to hear, "Our family prayed for you last night," or "Our Bible study group prayed for you at our last meeting."
- 5. Send them a birthday card, care package, magazines from home, books you've enjoyed, treats they can't get on the field.
- 6. Recommend missionary biographies that might be an encouragement to them.
- 7. Share snippets of spiritual food you have enjoyed a verse that encouraged you during your quiet time, or an anecdote from a sermon



Luke and Amy Bolle and their five children on furlough in Wisconsin. The family serves the Philippines.

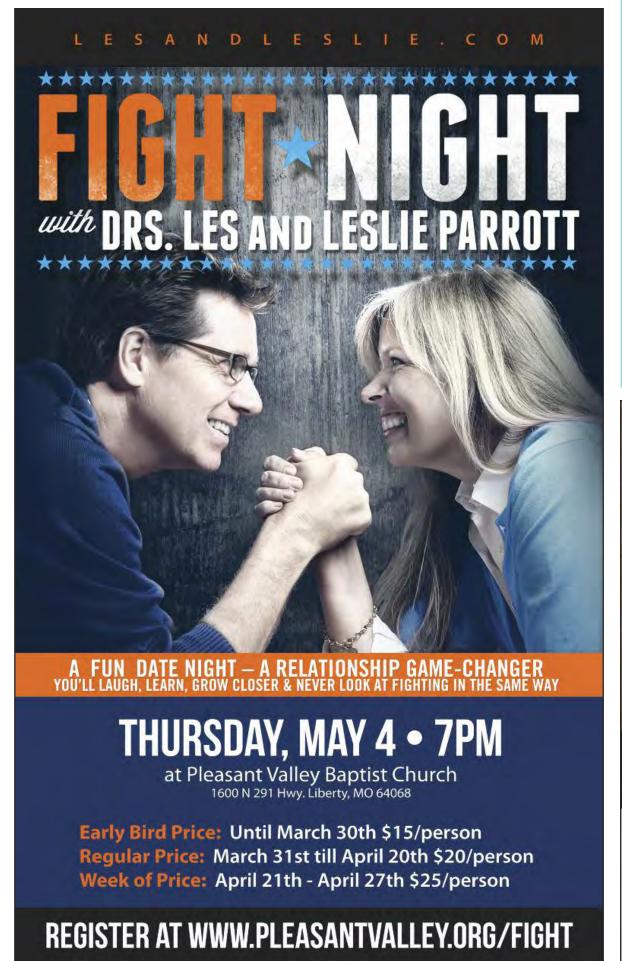
that made you think of them.

8. Be willing to be a sounding board, a confidential source to whom they can vent and on whom they can rely when things are challenging.

9. Let them know it's okay to take vacations, both on the field and on furlough. Not only okay, but essential.

- 10. Give their kids grace when they're on furlough. The whirlwind of meetings, houses, people, services, food, conversations, adjustments, etc. etc. etc. can take a huge toll on adults and kids
 - 11. Listen to their stories.
 - 12. Pray some more.

13. And an added bonus, straight from someone on the field: "Of course, the absolute cherry on the cake would be coming to visit us!"





World Missionary
Ignorance is not bliss when it comes to cults. Join us for a study of false

Christian and non-Christian religions. This in-depth session will empower believers

to share the Gospel with those in darkness.

Three hours of college seminary credit may be earned

Audit students are welcome.

For more information or to register, contact

Dr. Carroll C. McCarroll, President, at 816-356-6380 www.heartofamericaministries.com • info@HeartofAmericaMinistries.com

Sessions and the Department of Justice won't defend Obama-era Title IX directive

The U.S. Justice Department, now led by Attorney General Jeff Sessions, announced in February it won't defend the Obama-era directive that told public schools they must allow transgendered



students to use opposite-sex restrooms and locker rooms.

The Obama policy came last May after DOJ attorneys informed schools that legal protections for

women under Title IX also protect males who believe they are females.

After 13 states sued to fight the new

rule, a preliminary injunction was granted last August by U.S. District Court Judge Reed O'Connor that halted the federal government's demand to follow the new rules or risk losing Department of Education funds.

A Chicago-area public school risked losing \$6 million, for example, and more than 50 parents joined to sue when school officials backed down.

Now comes the Sessions-led DOJ, which quickly stopped those demands hours after Sessions became the new U.S. attorney general.

"What it means," observes Alliance Defending Freedom senior counsel Gary "And we're hopeful,"
says McCaleb,
"that a Trump
administration puts
great weight on the
privacy, safety and
dignity of all
students in
America."

McCaleb, "is the Department of Justice is reconsidering what is a very wrong-

headed rewriting of federal statute Title IX."

The Deptartment of Education was also pushing the directive, and McCaleb predicted to OneNewsNow in a Feb. 3 story that the DOE under Betsy DeVos would drop its support of a lawsuit filed by a Virginia girl who identifies as a boy named "Gavin."

That case goes back to 2014, when she was allowed to use the boys restroom until parents complained, and she sued when the school adopted a policy requiring her to use the girls' restroom or a private, single-stall restroom, The Associated Press has reported.

Attorneys for the ACLU have rejected attempts by schools to compromise with private restrooms.

The term "sex" in Title IX, McCaleb says, was twisted by the former administration to include gender identity rather than the biological reality of male and female. For that reason he calls the recent DOJ decision a "breath of fresh air" for school leaders and parents concerned over the privacy and safety of girls.

"And we're hopeful," says McCaleb, "that a Trump administration puts great weight on the privacy, safety and dignity of all students in America."

news**briefs**



National study finds little proof of pot's medical benefits

(WNS)--Marijuana advocates tout the drug and its compounds as therapeutic for everything from treating glaucoma to stopping nightmares. But a new systematic review of more than 10,700 scientific studies conducted by the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine found verifiable benefits for only two disorders—chronic pain and the nausea and vomiting caused by chemotherapy. Despite growing support for legalization efforts, the review found numerous and serious health and social consequences for marijuana use. This report simply adds to the mountain of evidence that marijuana use is a serious danger to public health and safety, said Scott Chipman, founder of Citizens Against the Legalization of Marijuana.



Pro-life tsunami floods state legislatures

(WNS)--Pro-life leaders say a nationwide surge in optimism is driving the wave of pro-life bills already introduced in the first few weeks of this year's state legislative sessions. The nearly 50 new bills include bans on dismemberment abortions and any procedure after 20 weeks gestation, fetal burial requirements, and bills that would defund Planned Parenthood. "With the election of a pro-life president, with all of the gains that we made across the different states with last year's election, I think we are very optimistic in passing laws that protect the unborn baby and their moms," said National Right to Life Committee's Ingrid Duran.

New research debunks the 'ball and chain' myth

(WNS)--The "ball and chain" perception of marriage is a myth, according to a research brief by the Institute for Family Values released in February. Contrary to the common view among men that marriage is an "expensive encumbrance on their freedom and their sex lives," new research finds married men have more money, better sex, and a longer

life than their single peers. And the benefits do not apply to men just co-habiting. Researchers Bradford Wilcox, a professor and the director of the National Marriage Project at the University of Virginia, and Nicholas Wolfinger, a professor at the

University of

Utah, examined recent sociology studies focused on the cost and benefits of marriage for men. They found a clear takeaway: Marriage is good for men in "every conceivable measure."

One-third of Colorado hospitals opt out of assisted suicide

(WNS)--Nearly one-third of Colorado hospitals say they will not allow doctors at their facilities to kill patients under the state's new physician-assisted suicide law. Recently, two of the state's largest hospital systems, both faith-based, released statements saying they plan to opt out of a state law approved by voters in November legalizing the prescription of life-ending medication to terminally ill patients. Now that they've taken a stand, the hospitals likely will be forced to defend it in court. The two systems, Centura Health and SCL Health, both associated with Catholic Health Initiatives, say the new Colorado statute contains conscience provisions

that protect their right to opt out. But assisted-suicide advocates are pushing back, saying a legal challenge is a "distinct possibility." At issue is

whether a system of hospitals can dictate for all its facilities and staff how to handle physician-assisted suicide.

Joplin schools reopen Bible study

The Bible study groups reported by the Metro Voice as having been shut down by the Joplin School District in early January have now resumed, according to the Joplin Globe.

The school district suspended the Bible study groups on Jan. 6, after officials received a complaint from the Washington, D.C.-based American Humanist Association (AHA) last December. While investigating the complaint, they realized that the



groups didn't comply with current school board policies regarding student-initiated groups. While they said the group was voluntary, student-

led and constitutional, they also noted that district policies allow student-initiated groups only in grades nine through 12.

As a result, a group of youth min-

isters are reopening the studies in accordance with a district policy that allows "community groups to sponsor such meetings through the rental of school buildings," the Globe reported.

Lew Poe, a youth pastor at Wildwood Baptist Church, Joplin, told the Globe that the groups will still be voluntary and student-led.

"What the ultimate goal is, and was before, is to lift up student leaders," he said.

A Action C Changes Things!

Missouri Right to Life "Show Me Life" Pro-Life Action Day

Tuesday, March 14, 2017 (registration begins at 10:00 a.m.)

Missouri State Capitol - 1st Floor Rotunda

Your pro-life legislators are making every effort to ACT to save innocent human lives.

We need you to ACT!

- Come to Jefferson City for Pro-Life Action Day to encourage your legislators to pass pro-life legislation.
- Visit with your legislators, then join the Noon Rally to hear our inspiring special guest!

Priority Legislation

- Tighten abortion clinic inspection statute to require at least one annual on-site inspection of abortion facilities and require an accounting report for the disposition of all tissue from aborted babies.
- "Whistleblower" protection for abortion clinic employees.
- Continue to redirect federal funding of family-planning dollars to federally qualified health centers and state rural health agencies for expanded health care for women.

Guest Speakers

Reagan Barklage, Students for Life Melissa Ohden, Abortion Survivors Network

Melissa is the survivor of a failed saline infusion abortion in 1977. Despite the initial concerns about Melissa's future after surviving the attempt to end her life at approximately seven months gestation, she has not only survived but thrived.

ivea. In 2012, Melissa founded The Abortion Survivors Network — wh

which seeks to educate the public about failed abortions and survivors while providing emotional, mental, and spiritual support to abortion survivors. Since its founding, Melissa has been in contact with over 206 survivors.

Fulfilling the purpose that she believes God set out for her when He saved her, Melissa is truly a voice for the voiceless.

Transportation is available from many areas of the state.

Contact Missouri Right to Life, 573.635.5110, or visit www.missourilife.org for further information.



P. O. Box 651 Jefferson City MO 65102 www.missourilife.org



forget."



The keepers of Holocaust memo-

ries can ill afford to forget. Even a uni-

versity student, decades removed from

World War II, understands. "We need to

eradicate the misconception that anti-

Semitism is dead," wrote Anthony

Berteaux in a 2015 Huffington Post ar-

ticle, "What Causes

Genocide? A Per-

spective on Anti-

Semitism at UC

Davis." "Any accept-

ance that normal-

izes this behavior is

another step for-

ward towards a fu-

perpetrates dis-

that

by Lori (Roberts) Wilson

"Never" belongs in the blanks above. Never again will the Holocaust happen. Never forget the World War II genocide of 6 million Jews and countless physically and mentally disabled, Gypsies, homosexuals, Soviet prisoners of war, political enemies and others by the Nazi regime in Germany.

Yet "never" is negated by facts genocide continues. Genocide, a term that did not exist before 1944, refers to "violent crimes committed against groups with the intent to destroy the existence of the group," according to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum website.

"By now, the evidence is overwhelming: ISIS is systematically eradicating Yazidis, Christians, Shia Muslims and other ethnic and religious minorities in territories controlled by the terrorist group," according to a January

2016 article by Charles C. Haynes, "In 2016, Genocide is Taking Place and It Must End." Haynes is vice president of the Newseum Institute, the education and outreach partner of the Newseum. The Newseum, headquartered in Washington, D.C., promotes, explains and

in detail the mass killings and sexual

slavery inflicted on that community as

well as on Christians and other religious

minorities ... targets of eradication

much like the Jews during the Holo-

defends free ex-

seum documented

to exterminate the

Yazidis, describing

pression and the First Amendment. and current The article referred to a November 2015 "report issued by the Holocaust Mu-

within us a the attempt by ISIS personal response."

Mike Schmid

"The Holocaust anti-Semitism and genocide prompt

> crimination against minorities." Berteaux's views were posted just days after two Jewish campus organizations were victimized with anti-Semitic graffiti, in the wake of the UC Davis student senate's resolution to join the Boycott, Divestment and Sanc

tions (BDS) movement against Israel. These are just a few of many current examples of hate pointed at religious

and ethnic groups.

The United States now experiences and tolerates "peaceful" protests based in anger that often result in violence. So who will stand up and remind someone, anyone who will listen, that "history repeats itself" - over and over again? Who will embolden us to never

Last year, one truly peaceful demonstration made a positive difference here in the Kansas City area, and will happen again this May. Based in love and prayer, March of Remembrance Kansas City is part of a worldwide movement that began in Germany in 2007 and has grown to include 14 countries and more than 70

'The Holocaust and current anti-Semitism and genocide prompt within us a personal response," explained Mike Schmid, director, March of Remembrance Kansas City. "This event gives us a voice as a remembering community."

The second annual March of Remembrance Kansas City is set for Sunday, May 7 at Overland Park Convention Center. The events will begin at 1 p.m. with a time of education, followed by the march. An Evening of Remembrance, beginning at 6 p.m., will close the day's activities.

"We invite pastors to attend and to encourage members of their congregation to attend as well," said Anita Widaman, Metro Voice publisher. Anita and Dwight Widaman, Metro Voice editor, are continuing as co-chairs of March of Remembrance Kansas City. Anita was named to the event's board of directors last September. "We invite Christians and others to make a statement together, supporting and honoring Holocaust victims and their descendants."

For more information please visit



RESTORE

CONFERENCE

APRIL 21-23, 2017

WORLDREVIVALCHURCH OF KANSAS CITY

JOIN PASTORS STEVE & KATHY GRAY and gifted guests

Be Restored to God's

- Healing Mantle
- Prophetic Mantle
- Apostolic Mantle
- Worship Mantle
- Preaching Mantle

This is the year of opportunity. Don't miss yours!

REGISTER TODAY restore.worldrevivalchurch.com

PROPOSED KANSAS LEGISLATION SEEN AS ANTI-FAMILY

While many in Kansans may shake their heads at the anti-family bent of some other states' laws, there are also some folks in the Sunflower State that are trying their best to get similar legislation enacted right here in the breadbasket of America.

This is a list of some of the legislation currently being pro-



currently being proposed in the Kansas legislature:

Senate Resolution 1715 urges the adoption of "comprehensive sex education" in Kansas public schools involving in-

struction on homosexuality, transgenderism, and other progressive notions.

- Senate Bill 172 would prohibit the use of so-called "conversion therapy," legally barring professional counselors and therapists from assisting those struggling with same-sex attraction.
- Senate Bill 155 would legalize the use of marijuana for medical purposes, the first step towards full legalization of

"People don't introduce laws like these because they've got too much spare time. These are steps in a long-term step-bystep plan to change our state."

-Eric Teetsel

the drug.

- House Bill 2120 would legalize physician-assisted suicide.
- House Bill 2123 would grant legal protections for sexual orientation and gender identity at the same level as race, sex and national origin.
- Senate Bill 139 would repeal the campus religious freedom act, an act passed in 2016 affirming the right of religious organizations and clubs on college campuses to require members to adhere to the tenets of their religion.

Eric Teetsel, President of Family Policy Alliance of Kansas, finds it unbelievable.

"Don't these people know this is Kansas?" he exclaimed.

Teetsel also issued a warning about

being vigilant.

'People don't introduce laws like these because they've got too much spare time. These are steps in a longterm step-by-step plan to change our state. We can't afford to take our way of life for granted any longer. The Family Policy Alliance of Kansas is pushing back on each of these and we will win. But simply defeating bad laws isn't enough. We must build back up a culture of life, family and freedom. That's why we're countering physician assisted suicide with expanding life-affirming palliative care options and introducing the Student Privacy Act while fighting sexual orientation-gender identity

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY? THE LIGHT HOUSE OFFERS CHRIST-CENTERED HOUSING PARENTING/LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT FOR THOSE CONSIDERING ADOPTION THE LIGHT HOUSE Where every human heart is cherished... within the womb and within strong families 24/7 HOPE LINE: 816-916-4434 WWW.LIGHTHOUSEKC.ORG

POLL

continued from page 3

gious groups analyzed, as well as by both Democrats and Republicans, men and women, and younger and older adults.

However, the mean ratings given to particular religious groups still vary widely depending on who is being asked. For example, young adults – those ages 18 to 29 – express warmer feelings toward Muslims than older Americans do.

Moreover, young adults rate all of the groups in the study within a relatively tight range, from 54 degrees for Mormons to 66 for Buddhists.

By contrast, older Americans (ages 65 and older) rate some religious groups, such as mainline Protestants (75) and Jews (74), very warmly, and others, such as Muslims and atheists (44 degrees each), much more coolly.

These are among the main findings of a new Pew Research Center survey of

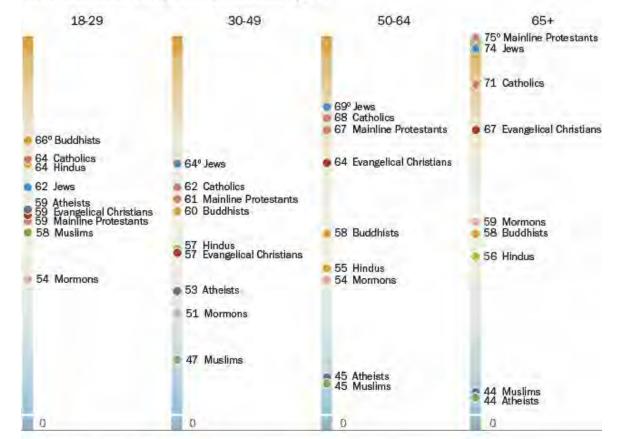
4,248 adults conducted Jan. 9 to 23, 2017, on Pew Research Center's nationally representative American Trends Panel.

The survey also finds wide variation in the ratings that U.S. religious groups give one another.

While for the most part Jews and Christians tend to rate each other warmly, atheists and evangelicals continue to view each other in a negative light.

Ratings of religious groups vary more widely among older than younger Americans

Mean thermometer ratings among Americans ages ...

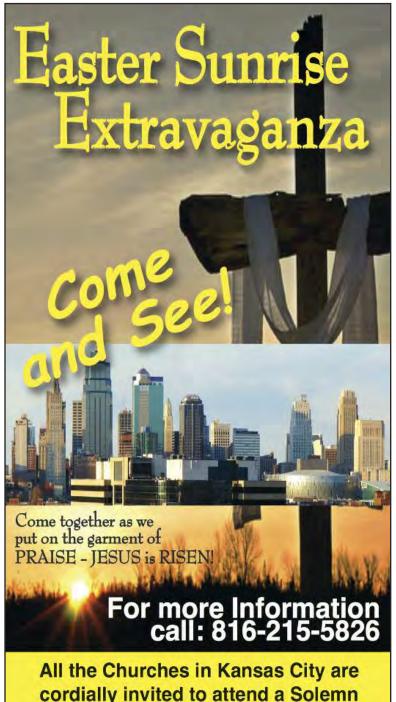


Note: Based on respondents who received version of "feeling thermometer" question that used alider; see topline for more detail.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 9-23, 2017.

"Americans Express Increasingly Warm Feelings Toward Religious Groups"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



Assembly of the Body of Kansas City. April 16, 6:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

Near the River Market Area

1st & Grand Boulevard (Under the Bridge)

Should we prioritize Christian refugees into the U.S.?

by Michael F. Haverluck

The son of the iconic world evangelist, Rev. Billy Graham, insists that the humanitarian relief of refugees is not the government's responsibility, but rather the responsibility of the Church. He went on to contend that Trump is merely taking care of job number one as America's commander-in-chief – to protect its citizens.

The priority of the president of the United States is protecting the Constitution and the safety of Americans," the younger Graham recently expressed on his Facebook page. "That's exactly what President Trump is trying to do.'

Border supporter

Graham, who serves as the president of Samaritan's Purse, went on to show his support for Trump's controversial plan to build a wall that continuously Franklin Graham

migration. "Is it perfect? Maybe not, but it is a first step."

spans the 2,000-mile United States-Mexico border from the Pacific Ocean in California to the Gulf Coast of Texas.

Taking action to secure our borders had to start somewhere," the 64-yearold evangelist asserted before reflecting on the project as a solution to illegal im-

crowds, Living Waters offers

secluded float trips in

none of the drunken

stupor... this is a river

experience that will set your

Central Missouri. Less

paddling, less dragging,

Protection paramount

The outspoken pastor from North Carolina also shared his view on the "extreme vetting" of refugees from the seven countries targeted by the president's executive order that he signed during his first days in office – insisting that residents from every country should undergo the scrutinizing process when attempting to enter the U.S.

"We have to be sure that the philosophies of those entering our country are compatible with our Constitution," Graham continued. "If a person does not agree with our principles of freedom, democracy and liberty, which we cherish, they should not be allowed to

Putting his focus on Muslim refugees coming to America from militant terrorist-harboring Islamic nations, Graham contended that the brutal and violent nature of the Islamic law - derived from Muslim's holy book, the Koran – should not be adopted by the U.S. because it goes against the very biblical principles upon which America's legal system is based.

"Without question, Sharia law is not compatible," he asserted.

Changing gears, Graham impressed that Trump's executive order does not excuse the Church from its biblical calling to help and serve those in need around the world.

'The president's job is not the same as the job of the Church, as Christians we are clearly taught in the Bible to care for the poor and oppressed," Graham expressed to his Facebook fans. "As Christians we are commanded to help all, regardless of religious background

or ethnicity, like the Good Samaritan

Jesus shared about in the Bible. Our job

is to show God's love and compassion.' According to Graham, until a political solution is reached, the international community should continue to protect the safe zones designated in the wartorn Middle Eastern nations of Syria and Iraq -- regions where he says Christians must step up to assist those who have fled to refugee camps to escape persecution.

One American Christian humanitarian organizations Operation Blessing International, has helped refugees in the powder keg of the Middle East since 2014 by giving them provisions, including food, diapers and bedding.

Not abandoning persecuted Christians

In support of the safe zones estab-

mere 0.5 percent were Christians equivalent to about a dozen families." а Deir ez-Zor

"Of the 12,587

Syrian refugees

admitted under the

ramped-up refugee

program during the

last fiscal year, a



lished by the U.S., Saudi Arabia's King Salman told Trump that he supports the designated areas in Syria and Yemen, according to a White House statement.

Trump recently voiced his concern for persecuted Christians in the Middle East, saying they should be the focus of any relocation efforts.

"They've been horribly treated," the newly sworn-in president impressed to CBN News Chief Political Correspondent David Brody in an interview. "Do you know if you were a Christian in Syria, it was impossible – at least very tough - to get into the United States?"

He then noted the contrast of how Christian refugees have been treated, compared to Muslim refugees over the

"If you were a Muslim you could come in, but if you were a Christian, it was almost impossible and the reason that was so unfair – everybody was persecuted in all fairness – but they were chopping off the heads of everybody, but more so the Christians," Trump added. "And I thought it was very, very unfair. So we are going to help them."

Open Doors USA President and CEO David Curry disagrees with Trump's prioritization of Christians.

"We stand for a need-based resettlement approach that treats all faiths equally," Curry proclaimed, according to CBN News. "We can't support a religious test in the United States, or in any other country. Policies akin to this drive horrendous persecution of Christians around the globe. A process that prioritizes one religion over another, as the Trump administration has proposed, can have negative effects not just in America, but around the world.



Just a few miles away from the congested and rowdy

retreat apart... families, church groups and scouts.

877-851-8158 (toll free) • www.john738.com



Syrian-American Christians: 'Trump is right' on refugees

"We would not

like to bring

refugees for a

simple reason -

we do not know

their back-

ground. We're

concerned about

if, God forbid, a

terrorist attack

happened here...

that we're all

labeled as bad

people. I hate to

"Following the issuance of Trump's recent executive order that temporarily suspends Syrian refugee resettlement in the United States pending a review of the government's lengthy vetting process, a group of Syrian Christians who have lived in the United States for decades [have been weighing in] on the order that has caused thousands of Americans to protest at airports across the nation," The Christian Post (CP) reported.

Big mistake ...

After immigrating to the United States years ago as Syrian Christians, Elias Shetavh and Aziz Wehbev – who

currently reside in Allentown, Pa. – are not in agreement with immigration activists protesting Trump's recent order.

"Trump is right – in a way - to do what he's doing," Shetayh told The Washington Post. "This country is going into a disaster."

Despite news coverage from the mainstream media highlighting multitudes of protesters opposing Trump's order temporarily banning refugees, two Syrian Christians claim that the decades-long experience in America has helped them see

the dangers of having a lax immigration policy – especially in this day and age.

"Shetayh has lived in the United States for over 46 years, while his wife, Georgette, has lived in America for 30 years, and they are the owners of a restaurant in Allentown, Pennsylvania," CP informed. "Wehby came to the United States in 1991, and both Shetayh and Wehby are now U.S. citizens and Trump supporters."

They both believe the risks of freely admitting refugees from war-torn, terrorist-laden nations greatly outweigh humanitarian interests.

'We would not like to bring refugees for a simple reason – we do not know their background," Wehbey expressed to the D.C. daily. "We're concerned about if, God forbid, a terrorist attack happened here ... that we're all labeled as bad people. I hate to say it."

The two longtime American residents are not alone, as many Syrian Christians in Allentown's 6th ward agree with their take on refugee immigration, and much of their reasoning behind their position has to do with the United States government's overwhelmingly disproportionate acceptance of Muslims from their former

"Although Shetayh and other Syrian Christians who have been living in the

> United States for years feel that the refugee ban is an appropriate precaution to take, some of their reasoning seems to stem from the fact that 99 percent of the 12,000plus Syrian refugees who were resettled in the U.S. in the last year have been Muslim."

> Wehbey insisted that his position is not based on religious intolerance.

> "We're not by any prejudiced means against Islam," he assured. "As long as you're a good human being, you have the right to believe whatever you want to be-

lieve. But the majority of the population over here are Christian Syrian. ... Now they're bringing new elements from Syria, refugees shook by a religious war. They may have hate in their heart because of whatever happened to them. We don't want to see a religious conflict over here."

"Considering that Syria has been involved in a civil war since 2011 and the

mitted under the ramped-up refugee program during the last fiscal year, a mere 0.5 percent were Christians – equivalent to about a dozen families," Shea pointed out. "Yet, by State Department estimates, Christians accounted for up to 10 percent of Syria's population. The State Department argued it was already prioritizing the 'vulnerable minorities.' But in several aspects, the Christians were in reality put at the back of the line."



the fleeing of millions of Syrians over the last few years has led to the biggest refugee crisis facing the world today," CP's Samuel Smith pointed out.

Muslims might make up 99 percent of Syrian refugees attempting to enter the U.S., but Christians from the wartorn Middle Eastern nation are also affected by the ban.

"Although the majority of Syrian refugees who have been resettled to the U.S. in the last year have been Muslim, it didn't take long for Trump's Syrian refugee ban to negatively impact two Svrian Christian families that were detained at Philadelphia International Airport and sent back to Qatar last Saturday - the morning after Trump issued his executive order," Smith continued. "One of the Syrian families deported to Qatar was supposed to join their relatives Dr. Ghassan and Sarmad Assali, who are orthodox Christians, in Allentown. Assali's two brothers, their wives and children began their attempt at immigrating to the United States in 2003 and finally received approval from the U.S. government last December."

Assali recounted her recent encounter at the airport.

"Two security guards were waiting for them," Assali told NBC 10. "They took them. They said, 'Are you Syrians?' They said, 'Yes.' They said, 'Come with us.' I understand [Trump] wants to make America safe. We're all on with this. I definitely want to be in a safe place, but people need us and we need to be there for them."

Pro-Trump. anti-ban

Other Syrian Americans living in Allentown who support Trump are not supportive of his order banning Syrian refugees.

"These poor people are coming from war," Pennsylvania resident Fouad Younes expressed to The Washington Post. "For them to get here and all of a sudden to be told - and they're legal and have visas – and all of a sudden you tell them, 'You can't come in. You have to go back' ... that's a shame,'

Having emigrated to the U.S. during the Syrian civil war, Younes fully understands, respects and supports Trump's foreign policy, but he noted that his take in that area often leans to the Left. However, he is finding it hard to back the new commander-in-chief's order in his

current situation.

"As the Younes family has been successful in getting a number of their relatives to the United States, they were holding out hope that they could help one of their family members who has not made it to the United States apply for refugee status," Smith explained. "However, the executive order has put those hopes on hold. Although Younes admits that there are no 'moderate' rebel groups in Syria, he still thinks the U.S. government should be more sympathetic."

"[The U.S. should be more compassionate to the] poor people that are running away from war," Younes insisted. "These aren't people that are going to hurt you.'

Despite Younes's disagreement with Trump on his refugee order, he still supports him and his administration.

"It's not going to necessarily turn me against him," Younes assured. "It just turns me against the policy. I've always been against the policy. But instead of fighting amongst ourselves, let's give the man a chance. Maybe he's going to bring jobs back."

Escalating crisis

As the sixth year of civil war in Syria is under way, the call for Western nations – including the United States – has increased.

barbaric Islamic State terrorist group controls territory within the country,

Conception Abbey

The Benedictine Monks of Conception Abbey welcome over 10,000 guests each year. Whether you come for a personal retreat, directed retreat, workshop, or just to get away we hope that after one visit, you'll never be a stranger to Conception Abbey. med as Christ

The Abbey Guest Center Conception Abbey P.O. Box 501 37174 State Hwy V V Conception, MO 64433 (660) 944-2809 guests@conception.edu www.conceptionabbey.org



GRAHAM

continued from page 8

Supporting Trump's plan to give priority to Christian refugees, Hudson Institute Center for Religious Freedom Director Nina Shea argues that Muslim refugees have overwhelmingly been favored by U.S. resettlement programs over Christians for

"Of the 12,587 Syrian refugees ad-

Opinion dwight@metrovoicenews.com

SHARE YOUR OPINION WITH US. IT'S EASY!

dwight@metrovoicenews.com • twitter.com/metrovoice facebook.com/metrovoicenews

What does television teach about love?



PUBLISHERS

Dwight & Anita Widaman

MANAGING EDITOR



Dwight
Widaman
Dwight@metrovoicenews.com

COMMUNITY EVENTS EDITOR



Anita Widaman Metrovoicecalendar @gmail.com

EDITORIAL SUPPORT

Contributing Editors: Dan Jeanes, Kharissa Forte, Alan Goforth.

Metro Voice © 2017, is an award-winning newspaper published monthly by Widaman Communications, Inc. MV is available primarily by mailed, bulk and subscription distribution to the congregations of 700 churches, colleges, bookstores, libraries, businesses and other locations. Complimentary distribution is available as a service to the community. Individual subscriptions are available for a donation of \$25 per year. Postage is First Class. Written materials submitted to MV become property of Widaman Communications. The content of this publication, including all stories, advertising or other graphic symbols, may not be reproduced in any way, shape or form for commercial purposes or added to any web site without the express permission of Widaman Communications. Advertising in MV is open to anyone wishing to reach the Christian community. MV reserves the right to refuse any advertising deemed unsuitable.

Metro Voice is a charter member of the Christian Newspaper Association, Fellowship of Christian Newspapers, Midwest Christian Media Association and member of the Evangelical Press Association

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 1114 Lee's Summit, MO 64063

OFFICES

816.524.4522 | Fax: 816.282.0010 email: dwight@metrovoicenews.com Calendar: metrovoicecalendar@gmail.com Web: metrovoicenews.com facebook.com/metrovoicenews twitter.com/metrovoice



MELISSA HENSON

Director of Grassroots Education & Advocacy for the Parents Television Council

myopinion

In a recent guest editorial for *The Hollywood Reporter*, NBA legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar made a persuasive case that *The Bachelor*, in all its forms and franchises, is killing romance in America.

He writes: "As entertaining as these shows are (and they really are compelling fun), there is an insidious darkness beneath the fairytale pabulum they are serving up. ... And when we think about where our children learn about the realities of romance, it becomes even more important to question what may influence their behavior in choosing a partner."

He's certainly onto something. Viewers of *The Bachelor* and *Bachelorette* shows are subjected to false, unattainable ideals of beauty; a lack of intellectual, racial and appearance diversity on the shows; and unrealistic, "fairy-tale" notions about how love unfolds – finding "the one," and living "happily ever after."

Abdul-Jabbar's criticisms of these shows are warranted, but when you look at the greater TV universe, they only

scrape the surface of TV's "love" problems.

It's not just reality dating shows that ironically are killing romance. The same can be said of much of what's on television. Savvy TV viewers today derisively snicker at the fact that *I Love Lucy's* Lucy and Ricky slept in twin beds, saying it is unrealistic — but enthusiastically embrace programs like *Game of Thrones*, which depicts incest, rape and orgies as ... more realistic? In an article for *TIME* magazine, an anonymous producer of *Game of Thrones* told the show's director, "I represent the pervert side of the audience, and I'm saying I want full frontal nudity in this scene."

Otherwise compelling historical dramas such as *Versailles* or *Vikings* are undermined by their insistence on gratuitous sex scenes which seem to draw their inspiration from modern pornography rather than documented historical fact.

Sitcoms are not immune from these corrupted and polluted ideas about love and romance. Even *Friends*, which seems tame by today's standards, featured constant references to pornography – including one episode titled, "The One with the Free Porn," in which Chandler and Joey discover they are suddenly getting free pornography and are afraid to turn off their TV and refuse to leave their apartment – to meet and interact with real women, for example – for fear it won't be there anymore when they return. What does that say about the state



of love and romance in America?

More recently, the creepy broadcast networks have allowed pornified ideas about sexuality to creep into storylines involving minor-aged characters.

ABC's *The Real O'Neals*, for example, included a scene in which two teenage characters click on a link that launches a cascade of pornographic images onto the screen. One character, says, "Dude, it's a pornado."

And on Fox's *The Mick*, after the adult guardian of three children encourages the 16-year-old girl in her care to have sex with an adult male, her 7-year-old brother asks about the sounds coming from his sister's bedroom. He's told: "Your sister's getting fu...uuurrniture."

A report for the Kaiser Family Foundation found that depictions and de-

scriptions of sexuality on TV are increasing, particularly on the programs teens are most likely to watch, and that most references to sex do not include messages about risks or responsibilities.

The consequence?

A report from the Rand Corporation found that watching TV shows with sexual content apparently hastens the initiation of teen sexual activity and that sexual talk on TV has the same effect on teens as depictions of sex.

TV today isn't just eroding ideas about love and romance. They are toxic to the culture. And our kids are bearing the cost.

-Melissa Henson is the program director for the Parents Television Council, a nonpartisan education organization advocating responsible entertainment.

BLACK PERSPECTIVE: THE BLACK COMMUNITY UNDER SIEGE



WALTER WILLIAMS Professor of Economics at George Mason University

viewpoint

What works and doesn't work in reducing crime?

Ordinary black people cannot afford to go along with the liberal agenda that calls for undermining police authority. That agenda makes for more black crime victims. Let's look at what works and what doesn't work.

In 1990, New York City adopted the practice in which its police officers might stop and question a pedestrian. If there was suspicion, they would frisk the person for weapons and other contraband. This practice, well within the law, is known as a Terry stop. After two decades of this proactive police program, New York City's homicides fell from over 2,200 per year to about 300. Blacks were



In the Englewood neighborhood of Chicago, the homicide rate is about the same as Venezuela. Here, a father has erected a plea to protect the children on one street.

the major beneficiaries of proactive policing. According to Manhattan Institute scholar Heather Mac Donald — author of "The War on Cops" — seeing as black males are the majority of New York City's homicide victims, more than 10,000 blacks are alive today who would not be had it not been for proactive policing.

The American Civil Liberties Union brought suit against proactive policing. A U.S. District Court judge ruled that New York City's "stop and frisk" policy violated the 14th Amendment's promise of equal protection because black and Hispanic people were subject to stops and searches at a higher rate than whites. But the higher rate was justified. Mac-

Donald points out that while blacks are 23 percent of New York City's population, they are responsible for 75 percent of shootings and 70 percent of robberies. Whites are 34 percent of the popula-

"The primary victims [of black crime] are lawabiding black people who must conduct their lives in fear."

of shootings and 4 percent of robberies. If you're trying to prevent shootings and robberies, whom are you going to focus most attention on, blacks or whites?

In 2015, 986 people were shot and killed by police. Of that

tion of New York City.

They are responsible

for less than 2 percent

were shot and killed by police. Of that number, 495 were white (50 percent), and 258 were black (26 percent). Liberals portray shootings by police as racist attacks on blacks. To solve

this problem, they want police departments to hire more black police officers. It turns out that the U.S. Justice Department has found that black police officers in San Francisco and Philadelphia are

■ See WALTER WILLIAMS page 11

Is it moral, legal to prioritize persecuted Christians?



JOHNNIE MOORE Rev. Johnnie Moore is an author and the Founder and CEO of The Kairos Company

mythoughts

While President Trump's executive order on refugee resettlement remains the subject of near-constant national discussion, there is one part of that order that shouldn't be up for debate at all: It is moral and legal to prioritize religious minorities facing persecution.

While former President Obama received accolades (from both Republicans and Democrats for his appointment to the UN commission looking into religious cleansing) candidate, and now President Trump gave unprecedented attention to religious minorities when Christians, Yazidis and others have so recently faced the threat of genocide in the Middle East.

Prioritizing the religiously persecuted was once the established order of the humanitarian community until the last administration began to quietly dismantle those norms and did so in the shadow of countless bombings, beheadings and crucifixions targeting Christians in Iraq,



Syrian Christian children under the protection of the Syrian government.

Syria, Nigeria and even Egypt (not to mention all the atrocities committed against Yazidis and other minorities).

The tradition might even be credited to the United Nations via two of its most important documents: the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The language of Article 2 in the Convention on Genocide reads like it could have been written in response to ISIS' attacks in 2014 and 2015:

"Genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in

whole or in part, a national, ethnical,

racial or religious group, as such: (a) killing members of the group; (b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; (d) imposing measures intended to prevent

births within the group; (e) forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."

"Prioritizing

the religiously

persecuted

was once the

established

order of the

humanitarian

community."

The fact that religious persecution ought to be taken into account in prioritizing humanitarian assistance is what prompted both houses of Congress to defy President Obama and vote unanimously in support of a genocide resolution against ISIS in 2016.

It's what prompted Obama's own secretary of state in March last year to depart from the administration policy to declare the same. Whether Obama agreed with it, U.S. federal law actually required that he take religion into account in determining who is to be resettled in the United States.

One of the most egregious examples of not prioritizing religious minorities occurred in 2015, when Christians displaced by ISIS were excluded from or persecuted within the very United Na-

tions camps established to protect them.

Since nearly all refugees resettled in the West arrive via U.N. referrals, only 53 Syrian Christian refugees and one Yazidi were resettled in the United States between 2012 and 2015. The Christian population in Syria stood at nearly 2 million before civil war

began and is now estimated at less than

See JOHNNIE MOORE page 22

WALTER WILLIAMS

continued from page 10

likelier than whites to shoot and use force against black suspects. That finding is consistent with a study of 2,699 fatal police killings between 2013 and 2015, conducted by John R. Lott Jr. and Carlisle E. Moody of the Crime Prevention Research Center, showing that the odds of black suspects being killed by a black police officer were consistently greater than the odds of a black suspect's being killed by a white officer.

That brings us to the most tragic aspect of daily life in the black community—crime. The primary victims are law-abiding blacks who must conduct their lives in fear.

Some parents serve their children meals on the floor and sometimes put them to sleep in bathtubs so as to avoid stray bullets. The average American does not live this way and would not tolerate it. And that includes the white liberals who support and make excuses for criminals.

Plain decency mandates that we come to the aid of millions of law-abiding people under siege. For their part, blacks should stop allowing themselves to be used by white liberals and support the police who are trying to protect them.

-Walter E. Williams is a professor of economics at George Mason University.

THE VOICE AND HEART OF THE PROTESTOR



CLINT DECKER President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

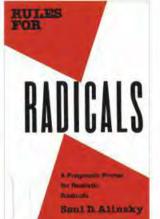
hopefortoday

Clay Center, Kansas – For much of human history, regardless of the chosen nation's political ideology, the human voice has never been silenced. From Russia and China to the United States and around the world, voices have risen up no matter the cost. As a minister of the gospel I have read the history books where Christians rose up against the religious establishment centuries ago. They became known as Protestants because they protested a series of religious injustices, and many were martyred for their stance.

In keeping with the human spirit to give voice to grievances, let those who oppose President Donald Trump's election and policies have their say. At the same time, the means by which these voices protest - I stand against.

The Bible says, "Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, but those who plan peace have joy" (Proverbs 12:20). The spirit and culture of the Trump protests resemble nothing of peace, but rather the marks of evil. The torching of cars, breaking of windows in local businesses and hurling of bricks - is evil. The intimidation of children,





Lest we forget at least an over-the-shoulder acknowledgment to the very first radical: from all our legends, mythology, and history (and who is to know where mythology leaves off and history begins—or which is which), the first radical known to man who rebelled against the establishment and did it so effectively that he at least won his own kingdom—Lucifer.

-SAUL ALINSKY

The 'dedication' for the notorious screed, Rules For Radicals, by Hillary and Obama's idol Saul Alinsky

physical assaulting of women and spewing of vulgar laced rants - is evil.

Voices of opposition and criticism are not evil. They are helpful providing needed checks and balances among those who hold positions of power. However, when the message of opposition is cloaked in immoral, wicked

and inhumane conduct, it becomes evil and should be condemned and delegitimized

The late Dr. Saul Alinsky, author of the highly influential Rules for Radicals, wrote "Pick the target, freeze it, personalize it, and polarize it. Cut off the support network and isolate the target

■ sidenote

Worldview Weekend President and social historian Brannon Howse said Alinsky is a troubling political figure because the roots of his radicalism run deep.

"A young Italian Marxist by the name of Antonio Gramsci advised World War II dictator Mussolini that violence was not the way to bring about a lasting revolution people would embrace and maintain," Howse noted. "Gramsci wrote eloquently of a 'quiet' revolution – one that would transform a culture from within by changing the basic worldview of each and every institution in society."

Alinsky is a popular figure to quote among many well-known political figures. In her Wellesley College senior thesis, Hillary Rodham chose to research and write a glowing dissertation entitled There is Only the Fight... An Analysis of the Alinsky Model. Both Barack and Michelle Obama have regularly cited Chapter 2 of Rules for Radicals, which states, "The standards of judgment must be rooted in the whys and wherefores of life as it is lived, the world as it is, not our wished-for fantasy of the world as it should be." In March of 2012, while addressing young Israelis in Jerusalem, Obama displayed his high regard for Alinsky when he again endeavored to quote him, saying, "Israel has the wisdom to see the world as it is. And, Israel has the courage to see the world as it should be." But it is not just liberal Democrats. Liberal Republicans have also found something to admire in Alinsky. George Romney, father of Mitt and governor of Michigan in the 60s, met with Alinsky several times and is quoted as saying that even his son, Mitt, was influenced by Alinsky's writings.

from sympathy. Go after people and not institutions; people hurt faster than institutions." Alinsky's values are no doubt having an influence on the shadow-like leaders behind these dangerous protests. These tactics are the embodiment of evil, resembling nothing of peace.

Yes, these methods will win some battles in the short term, but in the long term they will lose the war. Their cause wields the weapons of evil, unknowingly stepping into a spiritual battle with God. It goes way beyond political parties, people or institutions. Evil's

greatest foe is God, and He always wins.

What do you stand against? What are you opposing? Let your voice be heard, but avoid using evil means to call attention to it. Rather, seek just, moral and peaceful methods to advance your cause. Additionally, lay your conviction before God. He is the ultimate whistle blower and standard of truth. Follow His wisdom through His Word in pursuit of justice.

-Clint Decker is President & Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc. cdecker@greatawakenings.org

Kansas City's most complete guide to the events and concerts you want to see!

caleuts Compiled by Anita Widaman Called Cal

Submit Your Events Online for FREE! Visit www.metrovoicenews.com

FREE LISTINGS in the Metro Voice Calendar!

Metro Voice, PO Box 1114 Lee's Summit, MO 64063 metrovoicecalendar@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE: Your item must be in by the 3rd Wednesday of each month for following month's issue.

Family Events, Christian Concerts, Theatre, Youth Events, Meetings, Clubs, Bible Studies, Family Fun, Speakers and More!

CONCERTS

CHARLES DAVID SMART. March 3. Homer's Coffee Shop, 7126 West 80th Street, Overland Park, KS 66204. 913-381-6022.

WORSHIP WITH DANIEL BRYMER. March 5, 12, 19, & 26. 6PM-7:30PM. Hillcrest Covenant Church, 88 & Nall, Prairie Village, Ks 913-341-1059

THE GARMS FAMILY. March 9. First Christian Church of Kearney, 2151 S. Jefferson Street, Kearney, MO 64060, 816-628-5583.

DIAPERS 2 DEPENDS TOUR WITH MARK LOWRY, CANA'S VOICE, STAN WHITMIRE.

March 11, 6:00 pm. Graceway Church, 5460 Blue Ridge Cut-Off, Kansas City, MO 64133. 423-239-6262.

NEWSBOYS LOVE RIOT TOUR. March 16, 7:00 pm. First Baptist Raytown, 10500 E. 350 Hwy., Raytown, MO 64138. 816-353-1994.

SWEET SPIRIT & FRIENDS MUSIC OUT-

REACH. March 18, 6:00 pm (food) & 7:00 pm (music). Moment of Truth Bible Baptist Church, 310 Randolph Road, Claycomo, MO 64119. 816-452 4436

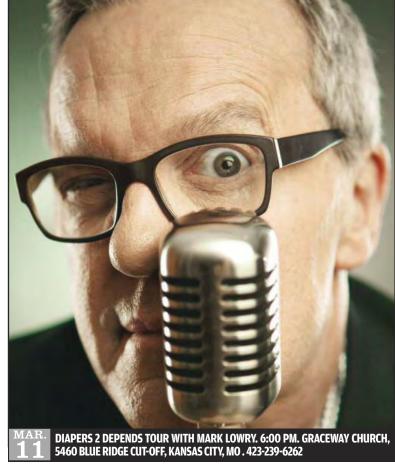
RANDY STONEHILL CONCERT. March 22, 7:00 pm. Topeka Bible Church, 1135 SW College Avenue, Topeka, KS 66604. 785-234-5545

THE LEFEVRE QUARTET. March 31. Christian Church of Kearney, 2151 S. Jefferson Street, Kearney, MO 64060. 816-628-5583.

GREATER VISION IN CONCERT. April 8, 6:00 pm. Cowen Memorial Auditorium, 74th and Metcalf Avenue, Overland Park, KS. Kansaschristian.edu 913-722-0272.

CHRIS TOMLIN'S WORSHIP NIGHT IN AMERICA. April 8, 7:30 pm. Sprint Center, 1407 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64105. 888-929-7849.

PAM & PHIL MORGAN. April 13, 7:00 pm. Tent



Revival at Frontier Village, 1st St. and Hwy. 71, Adrian, MO. 913-579-9438.

CASTING CROWNS CONCERT SHARE. May 4, 7:00 pm. Silverstein Eye Center Arena, 19100 E. Valley Pkwy., Independence, MO 64055. 816-442-6100

SOUTHERN GOSPEL (Call for groups)

ALPHA OMEGA CHRISTIAN MUSIC ASSOCIA-TION MONTHLY MEETING, PRAYER, DEVO-TION. POTLUCK AND JAM. FIRST FRIDAY. 7pm. 10035 E. Westport Rd., Indep., MO 64052.

MO-KAN GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION POTLUCK AND JAM. FOURTH FRIDAY (except for Nov. & Dec. when we meet on the 3rd Fri.). Northland Christian Church, 6120 NE 48th St., KCMO. 913-432-0359.

LIVE CHRISTIAN MUSIC VENUE. THIRD FRIDAY, 7:00 pm. Bent Knee Cowboy, 13415 S. 142nd St., Bonner Springs, KS. 913-927-4567.

PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE CHURCH. SEC-OND SATURDAY, 6pm. 341 S. 72nd St., Kansas City, KS 66111. Praise and Worship songs of Zion. 913-334-1009.

CGMA NW MO CHAPTER MEETING, GOSPEL MUSIC AND POTLUCK. SECOND SATURDAY. Faith Assembly of God Church, South 13 Hwy, Polo, MO. Travel North on I-35 North, go North of Liberty to the Polo/Lathrop Exit. Turn right onto 116 Hwy. Go 12 miles to 13 Hwy. Turn left and go ½ mile. pegcla@msn.com.

MOMENT OF TRUTH BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH. THIRD SATURDAY in January, May, September & October, 7pm. 310 Randolph Rd, Claycomo, MO. Gospel music sing. 816-452-

RADIANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD. LAST SUNDAY, 6:30 p.m. Hwy. 33, Kearney, MO. Open mic. Gospel sing.

PARADISE BAPTIST CHURCH. SECOND SUNDAY, 6 p.m. Pot luck dinner at 5 p.m. Paradise Missouri. 816-591-1020.

CLASSES, SEMINARS, CONFERENCES

CITY WIDE EVANGELISM. Wednesday, 6:40 pm & Thursday, 10:00 am. IHOP, 3535 E. Red Bridge Rd., Kansas City, MO 64137. Are you an Evangelist? Come and meet others who are like

minded. www.kcfellowship.org 913-636-4935.

HER CHOICE TO HEAL. March 2017. If Not For Grace Ministries is offering an abortion recovery class called "Her Choice To Heal". If you have been struggling with pain or loss from this decision, please contact Jama at jedlund@infg.org or call 816-847-2911 for more information or to register for the 9-week class.

STAND CONFERENCE. March 2-4. International House of Prayer University, 12901 S. US Highway 71, Grandview, MO 64030. Speakers: Stuart Greaves, Jaye Thomas, Todd Dulaney, Darrian Summerille, Noel Hall, and others. Gathering for all those with a heart to see the black community walking in their prophetic calling, living a lifestyle of radical obedience and deep communion with Jesus. 816-763-0200 ext. 2252.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR AGING BRAIN.

March 9, 3:00 pm-4:30 pm. Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, 1600 North 291 Highway, Liberty, MO 64068. Six-session class of live instruction and video-led instruction on the science behind how the mind ages, and how to help it age well. 816-781-5959.

AVOID PROBATE. March 9, 7:00 pm. Lewis Living Trust Center, 700 NE Langsford, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. 816-524-3200.

FAMILY LIFE'S WEEKEND TO REMEMBER.

March 10 - March 12. Marriott Hotel, 10800 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS 66210. \$149.99 per person. www.familylife.com 1-800-FL-TODAY.

REGIONAL ORPHAN CARE SEMINAR. March 11, 8:30 am. Topeka Bible Church, 1101 SW Mulvane, Topeka, KS 66604. Co-sponsored with Lifeline Children's Services. We will cover various avenues of being involved from foster/respite care, domestic or international adoption, adopting waiting kids in foster care, and preventing

calendar continuned on next page

In concert 7 PM Wed., March 22 RANDY STONEHILE BRINGING THE KING OF HEARTS TO THE HEART OF THE WORLD Doors open at 6:30 • Free will offering accepted Topeka Bible Church, College Ave. Auditorium 1135 SW College • 785-234-5545





SECRET KEEPER GIRL - THE PURPLE PARTY TOUR! 3:30 P.M. NALL AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH, PRAIRIE VILLAGE, KS. (913) 432-4141

children from going into foster care with Safe Families for Children. 785-783-4577.

MAINTAINING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS.

March 16, 1:00 pm. Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City, MAC Room, 5801 W. 115th Street, Overland Park, KS 66211. Speaker Debra Grayson. Explores the topic of how positive relationships increase health and longevity. 913-327-8044.

CULT & OCCULT SEMINAR. March 17, 6:00 pm-9:00 pm & March 18, 9:00 am-3:00pm. Heart of America Bible College, 7600 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64138. 816-356-6380.

AVOID PROBATE. March 21, 7:00 pm. Lewis Living Trust Center, 700 NE Langsford, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. 816-524-3200.

SECRET KEEPER GIRL THE PURPLE PARTY TOUR. March 25, 3:30 pm-6:00 pm. Nall Avenue
Baptist Church, 6701 Nall Avenue, Prairie Village,
KS 66208. \$15.00.

PRE-TEENS SUPPORT GROUP. March 25, 10:00 am-3:00 pm. Immanuel Lutheran Church,

1700 Westport Road, Kansas City, MO 64111. \$35 per Saturday, cost includes activities, snacks, meals, and facilitator fee. Sponsored by Dillion International. www.dillionadopt.com/kansascity-pre-teen-group/

UNWAVERING: WOMEN'S GATHERING.

March 30-April 1. Forerunner Christian Fellowship, 12444 Grandview Road, Grandview, MO 64030. Speakers Mike & Diane Bickle, Heidi Baker, Lisa Bevere, Laura Hackett Park, Jaye & Nayomi Thomas, and others. 816-763-0200 x 2252

11TH MEN OF VALOR, WOMEN OF VIRTUE CONFERENCE, LIVING A PURE LIFE IN AN INPURE WORLD. April 1, 9:00 am-3:00pm. St. Thomas More Church, 11822 Holmes Road, Kansas City, MO. Six breakout sessions with twelve national experts. www.kcvalor.com 816-714-2373

LIFELINE EMPOWER TO CONNECT CONFER- ENCE. April 7-8. Two-day conference designed to help adoptive and foster parents, ministry leaders and professionals better understand how to

connect with "children from hard places" in order to help them heal and become all that God desires for them to be. lifelinechild.org 785-783-4577.

EVANGELIST: RON MILLS. April 9, 10:45 am & 6:00 pm. Calvary Baptist Church, 900 NW 22nd

Street, Blue Spring, MO 64015. 816-228-5540. **RESTORE CONFEREENCE.** April 21 - April 23. World Revival Church, 9900 View High Dr., Kansas City, Missouri. Anointed worship, prophecy, healing and the Word of God. worldrevivalchurch.com

JUNIOR. CHRISTIAN YOUTH IN ACTION TRAINING. April 25 & May 5, 6:00 pm. CEF
Headquarters, Warrenton, MO. Sponsored by
CEF of the Greater Kansas City Area. 12-13 years
old. After training, students teach at least 2

calendar continuned on next page







weeks of 5-Day Club at various locations in their local community. staff@cef-gkca.org 816-358-

FIGHT NIGHT WITH LES AND LESLIE PAR-ROTT. May 4, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm. Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, 1600 North 291 Highway, Liberty, MO 64068. A fun date night for couples of any age or stage. Filled with humor, fresh insight, and practical, new strategies for turning conflict into a means for deeper intimacy. 816-

DIVORCE CARE. March through May 21, 5:00 pm. Christ The Rock Church, 13901 E. Noland Court, Independence, MO 64015. 816-352-4613.

SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE. March 1, 6:30 pm. KC First Church of the Nazarene, 11811 State Line Rd., Kansas City, MO 64114. A time of music, prayer, and reflection. At the end of the service, we will have the opportunity to respond by receiving the sign of the cross in ashes placed on your heads or foreheads.

MOTHER'S REFUGE OPEN HOUSE. March 2, 10:30 am. Mother's Refuge, 3721 Delridge Rd., Independence, MO 64052. Open House for school counselors, case workers and community Resource providers, 816-353-8070.

19th ANNUAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION &

COLLEGE EXPO. March 4, 10:00 am-2:00 pm. Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall, Kansas City, MO. Sponsored by Metro Voice. 25 K-12 Schools, Homeschool 50 Colleges from 15 States, plus, Free Seminars! 816-524-4522.

FAITH & FAMILY AT MISSOURI MAVERICKS. March 5, 4:05 pm. Silverstein Eye Center Arena, 19100 E. Valley View Parkway, Independence, MO 64055. Missouri Mavericks vs. Tulsa Oilers. 816-252-7825

K-12 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPEN HOUSE SOUTH/EAST JACKSON & NORTH CASS COUNTIES. March 6, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm. Gamber Community Center, 4 SE Independence Ave., Lee's Summit, MO. Visit with administrators and teachers from local Christian Schools and Homeschool Groups. 816-524-4522.

K-12 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPEN HOUSE NORTHLAND. March 7, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm. Gladstone Community Center, 6901 N. Holmes St., Gladstone, MO. Visit with administrators and teachers from local Christian Schools and Homeschool Groups. 816-524-4522.

K-12 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPEN HOUSE **JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS.** March 9, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm. Tomahawk Ridge Community Center, 11902 Lowell, Overland Park, KS. Visit with administrators and teachers from local Christian Schools and Homeschool Groups. 816-524-4522.

IF NOT FOR GRACE VOLUNTEER ORIENTA-TION. March 9, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm. Register now, we will send you information. admin@infg.org.

CELEBRATE PURIM WITH OR HAOLAM! March 12, 3:00 pm-6:30 pm. Or HaOlam Messianic Synagogue, 9898 W. 95th St., Overland Park, KS. Carnival games, costume parade, congregational dancing, food, and more! 913-383-

MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE "SHOW ME LIFE" PRO-LIFE ACTION DAY. March 14, 12:00 pm (rally). Missouri State Capital, 1st Floor Rotunda, Jefferson City, MO. Guest speakers: Reagan Barklage, Students for Life and Melissa Ohden, Abortion Survivors Network. Come to Jefferson City for Pro-Life Action Day to encourage your legislators to pass pro-life legislation. 573-635-5110.

SOUTH KANSAS CITY AGLOW. March 22, 9:30 am. Grandview Christian Church, 12400 Grandview Rd., Grandview, MO 64030. Program: The Boy, The Loaves, & The Fish Portrayed by, (Nick Dell Valle), 816-540-2590.

FREE PROM BOUTIQUE. March 24, 3:00 pm-7:00 pm & March 25, 9:00 am-3:00 pm. Central United Methodist Church, 5144 Oak Street, Kansas City. MO. Free. Sponsored by Blessed Dress KC, a ministry of Central United Methodist Church. A two day event that provides free prom dresses to high school girls without the resources to purchase prom attire. www.blesseddresskc.org

LIFELINE CHILDREN'S SERVICES' SHARE THE **STORY EVENT.** Mach 30, 5:30 PM. Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center at Washburn University, 1700 SW College Ave., Topeka, KS 66621. Join us for an evening of stories from our various ministries and see how God is moving in families and with vulnerable children! lifelinechild.org 785-783-4577

NIGHT OF WORSHIP. April 2, 6:00 pm. Fort Osage Church of the Nazarene, 19333 E. 24 Highway, Independence, MO 64056. Come join us for a night of Worship to uplift your heart to our wonderful God! Contemporary Worship Service.

EASTER FOR KIDS. April 8, 9:00 am. Mt. Olive

THE WIZARD OF OZ. GOPPERT THEATRE AVILA UNIVERSITY, 11901 WORNALL ROAD, KANSAS CITY MO 64145 913-681-3318

Lutheran Church, 9514 Perry Lane, Overland Park, KS 66212. Please join us for a fun filled morning of crafts, snacks, Bible stories, games, music and an Easter egg hunt. To register please go to mtolivewels.com, 913-375-5842.

LEE'S SUMMIT'S GREATEST EASTER EGG

HUNT & PAGEANT. April 9, 10:30 am. Church On The Rock Outreach Center, 1700 SW Market Street, Lee's Summit, MO 64082, Pageant and Free Easter Egg Hunt with lots of candy and surprises. Public is welcome. 816-246-7625.

SEDER MEAL. April 12, 5:00 pm. KC First Church of the Nazarene, 11811 State Line Rd., Kansas City, MO 64114. This special meal together commemorates the Passover meal and the Israelite's freedom from Egypt. 816-942-9022.

EASTER EGG HUNT. April 15, 11:00 am. Leawood Baptist Church, 8200 State Line Rd., Leawood, KS, 66206. Easter egg hunt for church and community; bounce house, grilled hot dogs. 913-649-0100.

EASTER CANTATA, "BECAUSE HE LIVES".

April 15, 7:00 pm & April 16, 10:15 am. Pisgah Bantist Church, 112 Pisgah Drive, Excelsion Springs, MO 64024, 816-630-5121,

THE MIRACLE OF EASTER. April 16, 10:30 am. Church On The Rock Outreach Center, 1700 SW Market Street, Lee's Summit, MO 64082. A message of hope and inspiration. Everyone is welcome. 816-246-7625.

EASTER SUNRISE EXTRVAGANZA. Apr. 16. 6:30. 1st and Grand Blvd, KCMO. All churches in the Kansas City area are invited to attend. 816-215-5826

EASTER SERVICE. April 16, 10:30 am. Leawood Baptist Church, 8200 State Line Road, Leawood, KS 66206. 913-649-0100.

UCA SILENT ART AUCTION. Apr. 21, 7 p.m. Urban Christian Academy ,4328 Jackson Ave., Kansas City, MO. The UCA Silent Art Auction is your exclusive chance to take home some of Kansas City's finest art work created especially for you by UCA scholars and Champions. Eat snacks, enjoy some coffee, listen to music all while making an investment in UCA scholars' lives. We can't wait to enjoy this evening with vou! (816) 8952333 www.ucakc.org

CHILDREN EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF THE GREATER KANSAS CITY AREA ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANOUET AND SILET/LIVE

AUCTION. April 22, 6:00 pm-8:30 pm. Blue Ridge Bible Church, fellowship hall, 8524 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64138. \$10.00 per person. 816-358-1138.

A TASTE FOR LIFE FUNDRAISER. April 29. rachelhousefriends.org 816-921-5050.

DAY AND MARCH OF REMEMBRANCE. May 7, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm. Overland Park Convention

Center, 6000 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66211. 1:00 pm education focus. You will learn about the Holocaust and Righteous Among the Nations. Time for leadership response of repentance and blessings. The walk will begin at 3:00 pm rain or shine! www.morkc.org.

EVENING OF REMEMBERANCE. May 7, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm. Overland Park Convention Center, 6000 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66211, An opportunity to honor, educate, remember and engage! Say to the holocaust survivors and their descendants, "you are not forgotten". www.morkc.org.

LIGHT HOUSE GALA. May 13, 6:00 pm-10:00 nm. Armacost Car Museum. 4200 F. 135th St... Grandview. MO 64030. Catered Italian meal. tour of museum, 816-898-1094.

FINE ARTS

BEAUTY & THE BEAST. March 2-5, 10:00 am-12:00 pm. Calvary University, 15800 Calvary Rd., Kansas City, MO. calvary.edu/theatre-box-office.

ALVIN AILEY® AMERICAN DANCE THEATER. March 2, 7:30 pm & March 4, 2:00 pm. Yardley

Hall, Campus of Johnson County Community College, 12345 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS. 913-

OPEN STAGE CHOREOGRAPHY FESTIVAL.

March 5, 2:00 pm. Jewish Community Campus, White Theatre, 5801 W. 115th St., Overland Park, KS. Nine local professional dance companies will showcase their talents. 913-327-8054.

KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY FAMILY SERIES PRESENTS: AROUND THE WORLD IN 80

DAYS. March 5. Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, 1601 Broadway Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. Bring the classic to life through inventive staging and storytelling, puppetry and a specially curated collection of symphonic favorites. 816-471-0400

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF. March 9, 10 and 11, 7:00 pm. Plaza Heights Christian Academy, 1500 SW Clark Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015. 816-228-0670.

THE WIZARD OF OZ. March 9, 10:00 am (school day) & 7:00 pm (family day). March 10, 10:00 (school day) & 7:00 pm. March 11, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm. March 12, 2:00 pm. Goppert Theatre Avila University, 11901 Wornall Rd, Kansas City, MO 64145. Sponsored by CYT. 913-681-3318.

HEART OF AMERICA SHAKESPEARE FESTI-VAL 'THE TEMPEST'. March 23-March 26. Johnson County Community College, 12345 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS, 913-469-8500.

WIND IN THE WILLOWS. March 25. Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Rd., Independ-

calendar continuned on next page





Let us help you plan for your future.

Are you on track to meet your life goals?

Bacon Financial Advisors wants to help get you there. The differences in our clients' lives drive the personalized financial plans we create for each and every one.

Schedule a FREE, NO OBLIGATION financial review.



600 SW Jefferson, Suite 208 | Lee's Summit, MO 64063

Office 816-246-8450 www.BaconFA.com

*Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/ SIPC.

Celebrate Purim with Or HaOlam!

Sunday, March 12, 3-6:30 P.M.

A Time to Rejoice! Wear a costume young and old! Bring your kids and grandkids and neighbor kids and even your Bubbe.

- 3:00-4:30 Carnival Games in the foyer; Coloring and Crafts in the children's classrooms; Shop in the Thrifty-Gifty Shop. Fun! Fun! Fun! For the whole family!
- 4:30-5:00 Costume Parade (prizes for best costume) and Sing Along with The Rabbi.
- 5:00-5:30 Watch The Purim Puppets tell the Purim story!
- 4 6:00 Let's Eat!! Everyone bring something good to eat. And don't forget to bring the Hamantaschen (recipes at orhaolam.com)! Don't have time to make them? No hassle, just pick some up from Whole Foods/Trader Joe's and bring.

קהילה משיחית אור העולם

K'hee-lah M'shee-kheet (Messianic Congregation) Or HaOlam [The perfect solution for inter-faith marriages]

9898 W 95th St, Overland Park, KS (east of Hwy 69)

Shabbat - 10 AM Saturdays, everyone welcome; orhaolam.com

Thrift Store open Tuesdays 2-7 P.M. Rabbi Shmuel Wolkenfeld – *rabbi@orhaolam.com*; PO Box 12503, OP KS 66282



ence, MO 64052. www.hazelle.org 816-833-9777.

KANSAS CITY BALLET PRESENTS: THE SLEEPING REALITY, March 31-April 9 Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, 1601 Broadway Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. 816-931-2232.

FAMILY OUTINGS

VOICES FROM ELLIS ISLAND. March 1. 7:00 pm-8:00 pm. Woodneath Library Center, 8900 NE Flintlock Rd., Kansas City, MO 64157. March 2, 10:00 am-11:00 am. Midwest Genealogy Center, 3440 Lee's Summit Rd., Lee's Summit, MO 64055. March 2, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm. Mid-Continent Library - Lee's Summit, 150 NW Oldham Rd., Lee's Summit, MO 64081. Pippa White tells the exciting stories of seven immigrants who made their way through Ellis Island in the early part of the 20th Century.

THE KANSAS CITY AUTO SHOW. March 8-13. Kansas City Convention & Entertainment Facilities, 301 W. 13th St., Kansas City, MO 64105. 500 cars, trucks, SUV's crossovers, and minivans vie for your attention all under one roof. 816-513-

DIAMONDS AND PEARLS ANNUAL SPRING FASHION SHOW. March 11. Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W Pacific Avenue, Independence, MO 64050. Carriage House Boutique opens at 9:30 am. Mansion will open at 10:30 am. Brunch will be served at 11:00 am.

SPRING FLING FUN EVENT. March 13-17, 10:30 am. Ernie Miller Nature Center, 909 North

Kansas-7 Highway, Olathe, KS. \$3 per person. Bored during Spring Break Week? 913-764-7759.

GREATER KANSAS CITY HOME SHOW. March 17-March 19. Kansas City Convention & Entertainment Facilities, 301 W. 13th St., Kansas City, MO 64105. Visit the home show for the latest in ideas and inspiration for their home.

ANNUAL LINCOLN DAYS EVENT. March 18, 5:30 pm-9:00 pm. Adams Pointe Conference Center, Blue Springs, MO.

PASSPORT TO INDIA FESTIVAL. April 2, 10:00 am-4:00 pm. Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 4525 Oak St., Kansas City, MO 64111. Travel to India with a celebration of Indian art, culture, music, dance, fashion and food! 816-751-1278

EASTER BUNNY. April 15, 8:45 am-12:00 pm. Powell Garden, 1609 NW Highway 50, Kingsville, MO. Enjoy a Chris Cakes pancake breakfast followed by our famously fun egg hunt on the lawn. 816-697-2600

MONTHLY MEETINGS

BUILDING BETTER MOMS. The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, 13720 Roe Ave., Leawood, KS. For local mothers of children in early childhood, elementary school, middle school, high school, and for single moms, with both day and evening meeting times available at the Leawood campus. www.cor.org 913-897-

WEEKLY - CHRISTIAN BUSINESS MEN'S COMMITTEE. Meets weekly in various parts of the city. Call Jim Mathis, 913-269-6709, for time and location.

WEEKLY - FAITH BASED 12-STEP PROGRAM OF RECOVERY FROM COMPULSIVE

OVEREATNG. Call Overeater's Anonymous 913-383-5933 or visit www.kansascitvoa.org for more information and to access the schedule of various meetings in the metro area.

MONTHLY - MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE CHAP-TERS 816-353-4113.

3RD SUNDAY - CANCER SUPPORT GROUP.

6:30-8:00 pm. Beacon Free Baptist Church, 10825 F. 79th Street, Raytown, MO 64138, Connect with others who share your journey, you are not alone. 816-353-7447.

MONDAY - MOMS AND TOTS COMMUNITY.

10:00-11:00 am. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 7851 W. 119th St., Overland Park, KS, A different activity each week - story time, play time, Mom's bible studies and fellowship, or special outing. A great way to connect with other moms and young children. Contact amyviets@holycrosselca.org for more info.

MONDAY - HEALING ROOMS MINISTRIES.

3:00-6:00 pm. Healing Rooms of Olathe, 1548 E Spruce, Olathe, KS 66061. M-T-W by appointment. www.healingroomsofolathe.com 913-563-

MONDAY - HEALING ROOMS MINISTRIES. 4:00-6:00 pm. Hope City, 5101E. 24th St., Kansas City, MO.

2ND & 4TH MONDAY - MOPS. 9:30 a.m. MOPS. First Baptist Raytown, 10500 E 350 Highway, Raytown, MO Support groups for mothers of preschool-aged children. Offers creative activities, social events & learning opportunities. 816-353-1994.

TUESDAY - 13 WEEK PROGRAM. DIVORCE-CARE AND DIVORCECARE4KIDS. 6:30 pm-8:00 pm. Timothy Lutheran Church, 425 NW RD Mize Road, Room 102, Blue Springs, MO. Participants become part of a small support group of

people who are also experiencing separation and divorce. A program for children whose parents are separated or divorced, children between the ages of 5 and 12. 816-228-5300.

TUESDAY - IF NOT FOR GRACE PRAYER. 9:30 am. Crown Pointe Church, 5950 NE Lakewood Way, Lee's Summit, MO 64086. kmiller@infg.org

TUESDAY - FEAR NOT SUPPORT GROUP. 7:00 pm. Lakeland Community Church, 913 NW Colbern Rd., Lee's Summit, MO. Christ-Centered

support group for anxiety and depression. Material based on the Christian 12 Steps; Serenity Prayer also Anxiety Centre "The Anxiety/Phobia Workbook" by Edmund Bourne.

calendar continuned on next page





TUESDAY - CELEBRATE RECOVERY. 7:00 pm. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 7851 W. 119th St., Overland Park, KS. This 12-step Christ centered program. Drop in any Tuesday! Contact Craig Hauser, 913-449-7265 for more info.

TUESDAY - HEARTLAND HEALING ROOMS. 7:00-8:30 pm. Christ Triumphant Church, 401 NE Chipman Rd., Lee's Summit, MO. www.heartlandhealingrooms.org.

TUESDAY - ISRAELI FOLK DANCE. 7:00 pm-9:00 pm. The Jewish Community Center, Studio 3, 5801 W. 115th St., Leawood, KS. \$3 Adults and teens welcome. 7:00 pm-8:00 pm: Beginning/Intermediate Dance, 8:00 pm-9:00 pm: Intermediate/Advanced Dance. 913-327-8000.

1ST TUESDAY - CHRISTIAN NIGHT. 6 - 8 pm. Skate World, I-35 & Shawnee Mission Parkway, Mission. KS. 913-262-0711.

1ST TUESDAY - CREATION SCIENCE ASSOCIA- TION FOR MID-AMERICA. 7 p.m., Westbrooke Church, 9777 Antioch, Overland Park, KS. Presentation followed by Q&A; Answers to your questions regarding Science and the Bible; "Creation Safaris" (Res. Req'd); www.csama.org (includes link to FB page) 816-246-4517.

1ST & 3RD TUESDAY - FIBROMYALGIA SUP-PORT GROUP MEETINGS. 7:00 pm., Life Springs Church, Neos Youth Center, 206 N. Webster St., Suite 112, Spring Hill, KS. Contact Kim: fibrohopeandhealing@yahoo.com or 337-852-5052.

1ST & 3RD TUESDAY - GRIEFSHARE. 7-8:30pm. Timothy Lutheran Ministries, 425 NW RD Mize Rd., Blue Springs, MO. 816-228-5300.

2ND TUESDAY - EQUIPPING BELIEVERS MID-WEST. 7:00 pm. Blue Spring, Hampton Inn, 900 NW S. Outer Rd., Blue Springs, MO 64015. Free Prayer for healing and freedom from addition, Free training to heal the sick, evangelize the lost, set the oppressed free. 913-488-6749.

2ND & 4TH TUESDAY - "WINGS OF HOPE".Blue Springs Christian Church, 7920 S. 7 Hwy,
Blue Springs, MO. A Christian based ministry to
provide support for families grieving loss
through miscarriage or infant death, because
every life matters. Email:
wingsofhope@bscc.org.

2ND & 4TH TUESDAY - MOPS. 9:00 am. Emmanuel Baptist Church, 10100 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS. 913-649-0900.

3RD TUESDAY - LUNCH & LEARN. 12:00 pm. KC First Church of Nazarene, 11811 State Line Rd. Kansas City, MO 64114. Each session of lunch & learn will focus on a different geographical area or skill set. Please bring your own sack lunch; desserts & beverages provided. 816-942-9022.

WEDNESDAY - HEALING ROOMS MIN- ISTRIES. 1:30-3:00 pm. Hope City, 5101 E. 24th

WEDNESDAY - DELIVERANCE - BREAKING CURSES WORKSHOP. 7:00 pm. First Love Ministries Church, 4747 Hadley St., Overland Park, KS. 913-403-9644. Call Tues. - Fri. after 1 p.m.

St Kansas City MO

WEDNESDAY WEEKLY - LIVING FREE,

Modular, 6:30-8:00. Abundant Life Baptist

Church, 414 SW Persels, LS, MO. 816-554-8181.

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY - CHRISTIAN BUSI-

NESS CONNECTIONS NETWORK. 3:00 pm,

Gusto! Coffee, 3390 SW Fascination Dr., Lee's

WEDNESDAY - BREAK TIME CLUB. 9:30am-

1:30pm. Timothy Lutheran Church, 425 NW R.D.

Mize Rd., Blue Springs, MO 64014. Enriching en-

vironment for older adults with mental and/or

WEDNESDAY - AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP.

E. Oak St., Pleasant Hill, MO (please use North

basement entrance off Myrtle Street). Are you

troubled by someone else's drinking? 816-540-

WEDNESDAY - CELEBRATE RECOVERY. 6:30

pm. First Baptist Raytown, 100500 E. 350 Hwy.,

Raytown, MO. Please enter through the rock en-

trance. Meet in room B-116. For info call: 816-

WEDNESDAY - CATCH THE FIRE SOAKING

778-1156 or www.firsthantistraytown.com

PRAYER CENTER. 7-9pm. 816-804-8283.

11:30am-12:30pm. First Presbyterian Church, 601

Summit, MO 64081, 816-767-1100,

physical limitation, 816-228-5300.

CHRIST-CENTERED 12 STEP PROGRAM. Front

2ND WEDNESDAY - LEE'S SUMMIT WOMEN'S PRAYER CONNECTION. 9:00 10:30 am. In a comfortable setting, we get to know each other better and take time to pray (silently or audibly) for our nation, families, Lee's Summit Women's Connection, and our national organization. Call Millie Mathews for meeting location: 816-537-9898.

2ND WEDNESDAY - COFFEE CONNECT. 6:30 pm. IHOPU, 12901 S. US Highway, Grandview, MO 64030. An informal gathering with believers from different spheres of influence.

www.ihopekc.org/josephcompany. (816) 763-0243

4TH WEDNESDAY - SOUTH KANSAS CITY AGLOW. 9:30 a.m. Grandview Assembly of God Church, 12400 Grandview Rd., Grandview, MO. Contact Mary Boston 816-804-5166.

LAST WEDNESDAY - CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCI-ETY LUNCHEON. 12:00 pm. Levy & Craig, 1301 Oak, Kansas City, MO. First time guest free. \$10. 816-559-2173.

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY - FREEDOM CLASSES. 6:30-8:00pm. Pleasant Valley Baptist, 1600 N. 291 Hwy, Liberty, MO. Meet in the west wing. 816-781-5959.

WEDNESDAY - FREE INDEED ADDICTION RE-COVERY. 6:00 pm. First Baptist Raytown, 10500 E. 350 Hwy., Raytown, MO. Please enter through the rock entrance. Meet in room B-222. For information call 816-778-1156 or www.firstbaptistraytown.com.

THURSDAY - HEALING ROOMS MINISTRIES. 2:00-8:30 pm. Healing Rooms of Olathe, 1548 E Spruce, Olathe, KS 66061. M-T-W by appointment. www.healingroomsofolathe.com 913-563-2413.

THURSDAY - CELEBRATE RECOVERY MEET-ING. 7:00-9:00pm. Life Church, 16111 S. Lone Elm Rd., Olathe, KS. 66062, 913-829-7511.

1ST THURSDAY - HEART OF AMERICA CHRISTIAN WRITERS' NETWORK (HACWN).Evangel Temple, 1414 E 103rd St., KCMO. \$3
members. \$5 nonmembers. 816-942-1414.

FIRST & THIRD THURSDAY - 13-WEEK PROGRAM. GRIEFSHARE. 7:00 pm-8:30 pm. Timothy Lutheran Church, 425 RD Mize Rd., Fireplace Room, Blue Springs, MO. Participants may join the group at any session. 816-228-5300.

2ND THURSDAY - HOMESCHOOLING 101.
7:00 pm. Country Meadows Baptist Church, 4901
S. Lee's Summit Rd., Kansas City, MO 64136.
Families for Home Education offers this free class for families considering home education in Missouri. MO law and record-keeping require-

ments are presented, as well as curriculum ideas and area homeschooling activities. 877-696-6343

2ND THURSDAY - FIBROMYALGIA SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS. 6:00 pm. Awaken Whole Life Center 7th Floor, 1901 NW Blue Parkway, Unity Village, MO. Contact Jennifer at stayingstrongtogether@gmail.com or 816-977-7469.

2ND THURSDAY - FIBROMYALGIA SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS. 7:00 pm. Countryside Christian Church, 6101 Nall Ave., Mission, KS. Contact Yvonne info@fibrocoalition.org or call 913-384-4673.

2ND & 4TH THURSDAY - MOPS. 9:00-11:15 am. (Mothers of Preschoolers) Overland Park First Assembly of God, 7700 W 75th Street, OP, KS. A relaxed time of fellowship, encouragement, and support for mothers of children from infants to kindergarten. Childcare provided. Brunch served. RSVP appreciated. 913-432-3281 or opagmops@gmail.com

2ND & 4TH THURSDAY - ARCHDIOCESAN CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP. 7:30 pm. Catholic Life Center, Cure of Ars Parish, 9360 Mission Rd, Leawood, KS. Fellowship follows. 913-649-2026.

3RD THURSDAY - GLUTEN FREE GROUP. 7pm. Timothy Lutheran Church, Fireplace Rm., 425 NW R.D. Mize Rd., Blue Springs, MO. 816-228-5300.

3RD THURSDAY - FOOD DISTRIBUTION BY HARVESTER'S. 4:00 pm. Fort Osage Church of the Nazarene, 19333 E. 24 Hwy, Independence,

For the complete monthly meeting listing, visit metrovoicenews.com

We listen...and treat you like family.

"Do to others as you would have them do to you." – Luke 6:31



Dr. Corey Piva

EXPERIENCED • CARING • FEFECTIVE

Chiropractic • Acupuncture • Laser Therapy Nutritional Supplements • Massage Therapy

Sports Injuries • Computerized X-Ray
 Spinal Decompression • Reflexology

816-540-8932 1805 N. 7 Highway. Pleasant Hill, MO pleasanthillchiropractic.net

Dentistry For the Family

Eugene F. Anderson, D.D.S. 13010 Fuller Ave. Grandview, MO 64030

816-966-0202 www.efadds.com

8:00 - 5:00 • Closed Fridays Serving the S. Metro area for 32 years.





ANNUAL JACKSON COUNTY REPUBLICANS

Reagan Lincoln Days Event



March 18 • 5:30-9:00pm
Adams Pointe Conference Center
Blue Springs
For Info Call 816-875-9690
Celebrating Republican Victories

www.jacomo.gop/jackson_county_lincoln_days



Kansas City's Home for Christian Music Traf

entertainment

MOVIES, BOOKS, MUSIC & MORE!

Is the new Lego Batman movie good for kids? Here's the 411

entertainment

Batman saves the world on a regular basis as the hero of Gotham City, but if you look just a little bit closer, you'll discover that all is not well with our Caped Crusader.

He eats alone. He watches movies alone. And when people want to be his friend, he rejects them.

"I don't need anyone," he says.

The happy child who was orphaned at a young age is now a superhero filled with anger and rage, and he has no intention of changing. Well, that is until a young boy—himself an orphan—enters Batman's life and challenges everything he believes.

It's all part of The Lego Batman Movie (PG) with the newest Lego movie starring Will Arnett as the voice of Batman, Michael Cera as Robin, Zach Galifianakis as the Joker, and Rosario Dawson as Bar-

film**411**

THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE
STARRING:: Will Arnett, Michael Cera,
Rosario Dawson, Ralph Fiennes
DIRECTOR: Chris McKay
RATED: PG

bara Gordon/Batgirl.

It's a movie that many American children will want to see, even without the partnership the film has with McDonald's.

Here's the good news: Lego Batman is mostly family friendly. Here's even better news: It has more solid, practical lessons about life than many adult-oriented films do.

The film opens with Batman saving Gotham City from the Joker, who is shocked when the Dark Knight tells him that he is not Batman's "No. 1 bad guy."





"Batman and Joker are not a thing," Batman says. "You mean nothing to me. No one does."

A distraught Joker then sets out to prove that he is, indeed, Batman's top nemesis.

That's the plot, but we still need to ask: Is Lego Batman OK for kids of any age? And, if so, what can they

learn? Let's take a look.

Warning: spoilers ahead!

Lego Batman has both a tragic and uplifting message about families. As we know, Batman's alter ego, Bruce Wayne, witnessed the murder of his parents as a child. That's not seen or mentioned in the movie, but we do learn that he was an orphan and we watch him look at pictures of his parents.

"Hey, Mom. Hey, Dad. I saved the city again today. I wish you could have seen me," he says to the photo. It's sad, yes, but we're given a redemptive moment after Batman accidentally adopts a boy from an orphanage—a boy who always has

Sight & Sound's 'JONAH' splashes into movie theaters

BRANSON – For more than four decades, experiencing one of Sight & Sound's biblical stage epics meant a drive to Branson or Lancaster, Pa. But on May 2, all that is about to change when one of Sight & Sound's musical dramas hits movie theaters nationwide for a special one-night presentation called JONAH: On Stage!

In addition to the production, audiences will get an exclusive, behindthe-scenes look at the history of Sight & Sound Theatres, whose live stage shows have been seen by more than 22 million visitors worldwide.

"More than a million people come to see one of our shows every year," Sight & Sound Chief Executive Officer Matt Neff said.

"And now for the very first time, instead of audiences coming to us—we're going to them."

Neff said JONAH: On Stage! Is a jaw-dropping adventure for the whole family as one of the Bible's biggest stories comes to life in this special event in select cinemas on Tuesday, May 2.

Filmed in front of a live audience at Sight & Sound Theatres in Lancaster,



JONAH: On Stage! brings to life the journey of this lovable yet stubborn prophet. This performance offers delightful humor, cinematic music, massive sets, amazing costumes and a breath-taking underwater scene featuring a huge 40-foot whale.

When God calls Jonah to offer mercy and forgiveness to the people of Nineveh, he runs straight ... in the opposite direction. As is often the case, one bad choice leads to another and soon Jonah's "get-away" ship is on the

verge of destruction amidst a terrible storm. To save themselves, the ship's crew tosses Jonah overboard ... and into the waiting mouth of one ginormous fish.

But as Jonah discovers, God is always willing to offer anyone another chance.

The original live stage production Jonah debuted in 2012 at Sight & Sound's theater in Lancaster then transferred to Branson for the 2014-15 season.





Actor not shy about faith and family

proved he's anything but shy to openly share his faith, taking to Instagram recently to reveal the Bible verse he's come to rely on for strength — Philippians 4:13.

Pratt, who has starred in films like "Guardians of the Galaxy" and "Jurassic World," made the revelation while also unveiling a photo of a piece of art his brother, Cully Pratt, recently made for him — a "dump tray" he's using to store his wallet, keys and other pocket items.

But while the wooden tray certainly has its practical uses, it also features some familiar artwork, including an image of Jesus as well as text from Philippians 4:13. The tray

reads, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Pratt said his brother, who makes the stunning trays by hand, recently offered to craft him one and asked what he wanted on it. At first, Pratt



different vision for the design, but when he got to thinking more deeply about it, the actor said it became clear exactly what he wanted Cully to do.

'I went for the usual Chris answer, American bald eagle smoking a cigar, holding a machine gun and an American flag ... maybe with some thought a lot about being homesick," Pratt explained.

"I'd like having a touchstone that I could take with me as I travel on the road for work."

He continued, "So I thought about this great Bible verse Philippians 4:13 which I've relied on for strength from time to time.

Pratt focused the rest of the post on praising his older brother, calling him "a unique individual," his "best friend" and a "real hero."

He might be on to something, considering Cully is an Army veteran and a sheriffs deputy.

In the end, Pratt said the tray is "my favorite thing I have."



'ROUGH AROUND THE EDGES' CHANCE THE RAPPER IS REACHING MILLENNIALS

In early February, Chance the Rapper became the first artist to win a Grammy without selling physical copies of his music — or selling much of his music at all. He won three Grammys (best new artist, best rap album and best rap performance), defeating the likes of Kanye West, Drake and DJ Khaled. The 23-year-old rapper from Chicago releases his songs online for free.

However, it was his performance that had people talking. Joined by Kirk Franklin, Francis and the Lights,

Tamela Mann and a gospel choir, Chance performed a combination of "How Great" from Chris Tomlin and "All We Got" from his latest mixtape. He also added in little snippets of "No Problem" and "Blessings."

Chance the Rapper represents millennial Christianity in three ways:

1. He hasn't signed with any label. Increasingly, millennials are detached from traditional institutions. Much attention is given to millennials leaving the church, but millennials are leaving institutions as a whole.

Any in stock BIBLE BEACON BIBLE & BOOK STORE 517 Main Street • Belton, MO • 816-331-8974

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 to 6 • Sat. 9-5 • See our Facebook Page!

HEART OF AMERICA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE & THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Accredited Degrees: Associate - Doctorate; Bible: Pastoral Studies; Christian Counseling, Church Administration, Christian Education

www.heartofamericaministries.com Email: info@heartofamericaministries.com

They leave traditional institutions but join up-start religious non-profit organizations. The number of religious non-profits increased significantly over the past 15 years. According to a 2013 report, 73 percent of millennials volunteered for a nonprofit organization in the previous year. Almost four out of five did so because of their passion for the cause. More than half were motivated by their interest in meeting like-minded volunteers. And nearly 83 percent of young Americans donated money to a nonprofit.

2. He is rough around the edges.

For a listener who grew up in the Bible Belt, his lyrics rock the proverbial boat and splash you with some foul language. However, profanity is often utilized in communication in order to shock and/or make an emphatic point. While one might be shocked at the profanity, one could be equally shocked at his points that highlight systemic racism in our cul-

I am not trying to justify his language, but I am informing you about the rationale behind his language. He is rough around the edges, but is committed to making God's kingdom come, God's will be done, on Earth as it is in heaven. He doesn't extend invitations to join him at church, but rather brings the message of the church into the culture.

According to one survey, roughly two-thirds of millennial employees swear at work. Approximately a third of millennials said swearing can help strengthen a team. Thirty-six percent said cursing reflects passion for their work.

3. He understands the urgency of

Chance's restlessness and eagerness are infectious, causing you to shift in

■ See CHANCE page 19





Built in Kansas City. For Kansas City Families.

Kansas City Personalities Mornings w/ Melony & Wayne Afternoons w/ Don Godman Local News, Weather & Traffic Kansas City Difference Makers Prayer Works Drive Thru Difference Christian Business Network



CHANCE

continued from page 18

your seat in a rhythmic fashion. He has a way with words and his words have their way with you.

"God give me one sentence

Maybe I just gotta get suspended more?

Hash tag it, get mentions for it Make you love it, get it trending more.'

His songs have a palpable energy that is characteristic of rap. Not all millennials rap, but many share the urgency that characterizes rap.

Seventy-four percent of millennials believe they can make a difference in the world now. According to a Deloitte study, more than 50 percent of millennials say they would take a pay cut to find work that matches their values. Ninety percent want to use their skills for good.

Chance the Rapper's faith looks different than that of previous generations. Then again, we have come a long way from fishermen and tax collectors to the millennial Christians of today. But the mission remains the same.

GOODBYE FEBRUARY, HELLO NEW ALBUMS



D.C. **JEANES** Metro Voice music critic

music**scene**

Well, we made it this far, huh? I was tempted to write Happy New Year, but... well... it's March. So between rushing the kids to the emergency room (long story) and having both vehicles break down on the same day, let's just say fare-thee-well to February 2017, and may we never meet again! So, uh, here's the music news for March!

Coming out this month on CD or digital download are a plethora of great artists, including, but not limited to:

Aaron Shust - "Love Made A Way

Laura Story – "Open Hands" Guy Penrod – "Sings His Best-Loved Songs"

Selah – "Unbreakable" David Phelps – "Hymnal" Aaron Sprinkle - "Real Life" Elevation Worship - There Is A

Craig Dun-n – "Smoky can – Mountain Six-

MercyMe -"Lifter"

Jaci Velasquez "Trust"

Along with a new album, Jaci Velasquez will also embark on her first tour in seven years, hitting 19 cities in Florida and Texas.

Also of note, for KING & COUNTRY, Lauren Daigle and TobyMac have all risen to

the top of the nominations for this year's K-LOVE Fan Awards, including the top award of Artist of the Year. Other artists, such as Big Daddy Weave, Chris Tomlin, Crowder, Danny Gokey, Hillary Scott, MercyMe, Natalie Grant and Ryan Stevenson have received nominations. The 5th annual K-LOVE Fan Awards will return to the historic Grand Ole Opry House on May 28th.













Question and answer session with Harry Connick Jr.

New Show Celebrates Faith & Family

Singer and actor Harry Connick Jr. had a unique idea for a talk show. He just didn't know if anyone else would go along with it.

His show would be family friendly and fun, celebrating what he calls the "shared values" that Americans hold. It also would be spontaneous, with fewer scripted moments than are seen in other shows, allowing him to serve as the host and the musician.

The result was Harry, which launched last fall in syndication. Connick believe it's a show that most people - no matter their background or political beliefs – can enjoy.

"I think most of us around this country have the same types of values. How do we do a show that celebrates faith and celebrates family and celebrates community - without preaching about it?" Connick told SCENES. "I'm proud of my faith, but the show isn't about that, per se. It's about all of the things that we celebrate and we value together. I think my show, at its best, will transcend the specificity of what people may believe and speak to them as Americans and as human beings." Connick's guest list has been diverse, with former football player Tim Tebow, actress Sandra Bullock and singer Kelly Clarkson all joining him.

Connick, who has appeared in more than 20 movies and whose albums have sold more than 28 million copies, recently spoke with SCENES Magazine about his show, his career and his faith. Following is a transcript.

SCENES: What did you want to do to help set your show apart?

Harry Connick Jr.: I had a very specific idea of what I wanted to do, and it was just a matter of seeing if anybody agreed with it. Fortunately, they did. I had a bunch of ideas about putting on a show that showed the things that I like to do on a daily basis. I wanted to have my band there. I wanted to talk to interesting people, whether they're celebrities or not. I wanted to be able to entertain the audience with different things that I do. The spontaneity of the show and the music were the two things that raised eyebrows, because those don't exist in

■ See CONNICK page 20

Ascension Lutheran Church Phone: 358-1919 Join us for worship each week.

Sunday Morning Worship 8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School and Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

The church is hosting walkers: 7:00 - 10:00 am, Monday through Friday.

hope to see

4900 Blue Ridge Blvd

Kansas City, MO



Avondale **Baptist Church** To the Glory of God!

Pastor

Jerry Breese

Morning Worship 10 AM Evening Bible Study/Meal 6 PM Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer Mtg. 6:30 PM AWANA 6:30 PM, Youth Group 6:30 AM

Call 816-452-7144 **Avondale Baptist Church** 2501 NE Parvin Rd. KCMO

Greater Pentecostal Temple



Wednesday Intercessory Prayer 5:00 PM Evangelistic (Vesper) Service 6:30 PM Evening Bible Study 7:00 PM Youth Department Meeting 7:00 PM Sunday

Sunday Sunday School, Relationship Class 9:00 AM Praise & Worship 10:00 AM

864 Splitlog Avenue • Kansas City, Kansas 66101 • (913) 371-4667



Grange Julius.

MINT OREO MARCH BLIZZARD OF THE MONTH! Try our new Kansas City BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwich on a Pretzel Bun!

1900 SW 7 Hwy in Blue Springs (1/2 miles south of 40 Hwy) 228-1711

14420 E. 40 Hwy (Noland Rd. in Independence) 478-8060

11904 Shawnee Mission Parkway, Shawnee, KS Ph. 913-962-5151. Come see us!

CONNICK

continued from page 19

"Fortunately,

I was able to

convince the

powers that be

to let me do it."

daytime TV. It was just a matter of seeing if the network would go for it, and they did.

SCENES: For those who haven't seen the show, what do you mean by the spontaneity?

Connick: A lot of shows are very heavily scripted. Not only does the host have things that are scripted out, but the guests are scripted, and there's a lot of planning that goes into what is said and how it's said. There's not a lot of spontaneity on TV nowadays. That's not to say that other shows

aren't good, but [spontaneity] is just a style that you don't see that much. You hardly see it at all, where the host is leading the band and playing music and, for the most part, is

discovering things along with the audience. Fortunately, I was able to convince the powers that be to let me do it

SCENES: From what we've seen of the show, it looks like you're wanting to make a show that a mom can have on – with the kids in the room – and not be embarrassed.

Connick: I'm glad you brought that

up, because for some reason clean entertainment and relevant, contemporary entertainment seem to be mutually exclusive. You don't have to be Mister Rogers to be a family show. My executive producers were the head writers for David Letterman. You can be really funny and have great substantive content – and you don't have to hold your thumb over the mute button. I believe that can exist, and that's what we're trying to do.

SCENES: Has your faith guided some of your career decisions – such as taking roles in Dolphin Tale (2011) and even New In Town (2009)?

Connick: I don't sit around and

think, "What movie is going to be appropriate that is in tandem with my faith?" I've never done that. It's all coming out of the same brain, though, and I do things that are

comfortable to me. I played a serial killer in Copycat.

That may not be something you want to watch with your kids, but I think art and entertainment are complicated. They're complex. Dolphin Tale is one kind of movie, but Copycat is another kind of movie. Do I lose sleep at night over either one of them? No, not at all. People are smart, and



they can see the subtleties in those differences

SCENES: Sometimes people grow up with a faith and then they get more serious about it as an adult, when they have children. Is that similar to your experience, as well?

Connick: Yes and no. I think my thought process has become more serious. Am I a better Catholic than I was as a kid? I don't know. All I know is that I am driven to understand

more about my faith. I am far from perfect. I have a long way to go and a lot to learn.

I remember when people used to ask me about my faith a long time ago, I felt like I had to come across as some kind of saint. I'm not, and I want to be the best person that I can be. I talk to my dad, and my dad is a devout Catholic. He calls me Thomas sometimes [as in doubting Thomas], because I ask him questions, and we talk

about different things about faith. He says, "How are you doing Thomas?" I want to know, I want to learn. I know I contemplate things now on a more substantial level now than I did when I was 20, because as you grow older you start considering your mortality and things like that more. And you start considering the wellbeing of your children.

TWEENS

continued from page 2

modesty, biblical teaching on the concept of being a princess, incredible balloon sculptures, bouncing beach ball competitions, mother/daughter conversation time and colorful confetti cannons.

The lessons girls hear during the show attack the lies that their most valuable asset is their beauty and strongly asserts that each girl is a masterpiece created by God.

"We loved it!" Andersen said of a previous tour she attended with her daughter. "It gave Ava confidence to be herself and gave me encouragement and guidance on how to approach fashion and pop culture with her from a Christian perspective."

Andersen and her daughter are one of more than 350,000 attendees of Secret Keeper Girl's annual tours in America and Canada.

Kristi DeMint, a Lenexa mom, is another. She agrees the lessons her daughter learned at the show helped build her self-confidence, especially when her daughter was asked to be a clothes model during the fashion show.

"They (the Secret Keeper Girl team) made being different seem cool and okay instead of joining the crowd," DeMint says.

The Secret Keeper Girl Purple Party Tour show will take place at 3:30 pm, Saturday, March 25, at Nall Avenue Baptist Church in Prairie Village. Tickets are \$15 each and can be purchased at www.secretkeepergirl.com.









Chewbacca Mom's book talks poverty, depression | Bringing comfort in 2017



"She is ready

to go deeper,

to share her

Zondervan has announced the signing of a multi-book deal with Candace Payne, who is frequently referred to as "Chewbacca Mom."

Payne shared the news with her fans first in an emotional Facebook Live video from HarperCollins Christian Publishing's Grand

heart and soul. Rapids office. "I couldn't be more the secrets excited to partner with behind her joy the Zondervan team," said Payne. "My hope is and how that these books will feel everyday like a heartfelt conversation between friends women can over a good cup of coffind the same fee. There's more to spark in their every story than meets the eye. I know what it's own lives." like to feel like a victim of my own life script; to

wake up doomed to the day's challenges and universal dread. The good news is that we can flip this impulse. I can't wait to share how I've learned to embrace freedom, and experience defiant joy regardless of the circumstances surrounding me."

A stay-at-home mom and church worship leader from Dallas, Payne became a household name when a Facebook Live video of her trying on a Chewbacca mask in her car went viral (165+ million views) and became the most-viewed Facebook Live video in history.

> Fans were drawn to Payne's infectious joy and ability to laugh at herself during a silly moment; media and fans alike noted Payne was a bright spot during an otherwise dreary

> year for news. After the video went viral, Payne made multiple appearances on a coast-to-coast major media tour.

> Some of the highlights included participating in a sketch with J.J. Abrams for "The Late Late Show with

James Corden," a personal tour of Lucasfilm headquarters, a visit to Facebook headquarters (photos of which were shared by Mark Zuckerberg on his personal Facebook page) and a trip to Hasbro, where she was presented with a 'Chewbacca Mom" action figure.

Payne has more than 800,000 dedicated Facebook followers and recently launched a video series with TLCme,



the digital platform for women's lifestyle cable network TLC.

"Candace Payne captured the world's attention with her infectious laughter, and we are excited to go behind the mask to share her message of defiant joy," said David Morris, Vice President & Publisher of Zondervan.

"Watching Candace, you would never know her joy has been hard-earned.

She is ready to go deeper, to share her heart and soul, the secrets behind her joy and how everyday women can find the same spark in their own lives."

The first book will release November 7, 2017 with a national media and multi-city book signing tour.

Zondervan will also release a gift book in Fall 2018, illustrated by Payne, which will take readers on a whimsical journey through the many types of joy, and offer practical tips for improving joy in their own lives.

For info on Payne visit her website at www.candacepayne.me.

Kathy Troccoli brings inspirational message to KC

So much media hype about division, unrest, hate, and riots – hope is not the story trending on media outlets or the 6 o'clock news nor is there a message of comfort. But that does not mean that comfort is not to be found on the earth. With that message as the focus, Kathy Troccoli is coming to Kansas City for a special evening of music this spring at Tiffany Fellowship Church, 7315 NW Barry Road. The date is still being planned so watch Metro Voice

Troccoli graced the Christian airwaves in 1990s and early 2000s even hav-

ing appeared on the Jay Leno show. Her most well-known hit, "Everything Changes," was in Billboard's Top 15 Chart in 1992. She's also an author and has appeared in several movies and today is a popular speaker.

In a statement from the church it was shared the event was planned back in the early months of 2016 through the faith of the Dream Team at Tiffany Fellowship Church and Kathy Troccoli's team that said, "Hey, we don't normally do this but we believe the Lord is calling to this time and place." Who knew how desperately we would need this message of hope? God knew.



Troccoli's message that hope is alive will be shared and both men and women will also have the opportunity to enjoy Kathy's pianist and guitarist, Michelle Margiotta. She is an accomplished worship leader having served at David Wilkerson's beloved Times Square Church in New York City.

Hope is essential for both men and women to thrive and the One that brings ultimate comfort is the Lord. One of the organizers said women are not designed to live without Hope. Hope opens the path to the impossible. "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but longing fulfilled is a tree of life." -Proverbs 13:12 It's time for a fresh perspective and a new start. Kathy Troccoli will sing - speak candidly and truthfully - offering the scriptures, stories, music and more.

The Gift of Legacy ...passing on your values, not just your valuables



William A. Lewis "Over 40 Years of

Experience"

LET US HELP YOU: · Protect that which means most to you - Your Family! Save you and your beneficiaries Time, Money and Inconveniences of death and/or guardianship probate.

Have peace of mind.



816-524-3200 · www.LewisLivingTrust.com 700 NE Langsford Rd. Lee's Summit





JOHNNIE MOORE

continued from page 11

500,000.

Instead of reforming the system, the United States allowed it to continue, refusing to provide sufficient, special assistance to those facing a special threat.

For far too long, our country has not done enough to help religious minorities in the Middle East via safe zones or refugee resettle-

This is one of the reasons why Christians there uploaded a video to YouTube days before the election, essentially endorsing Trump and saying, "we really hope that this election will be a turning point and bring hope for the Iraqi people and for the Christian minorities, in particular."

Trump is attempting to do what should have already been done, and it's an honorable thing to do.

-Johnnie Moore is the author of "Defying ISIS: Preserving Christianity in the Place of Its Birth and in Your Own Backyard."

RALLY

continued from page 1

- "Whistleblower" protection for abortion clinic employees.
- · Continue to redirect federal funding of family-planning dollars to federally qualified health centers and state rural health agencies for expanded health care for women.

In addition to many adults, Christian schools across the state use the day as a civic lesson in involvement for their students sending many on buses with

Public transportation is available from many areas of the state.



Contact Missouri Right to Life, (573) 635-5110 or visit www.missourilife.org

RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE

continued from page 1

the Pulse nightclub attack in Florida committed by an observant, orthodox Muslim man from a Muslim family," Breitbart News reported.

Reflecting the multiculturalism teachings of the U.S. public education system and the pro-Palestinian/Iranian foreign policy touted by former President Barack Obama, former Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton and other leftists, an overwhelming majority of Democrats in America see Islam as no more violent than other major world religions - even though militant jihad and the overtly merciless Shariah law are integral parts of the religion.

"Merely one-in-seven Democrats believe that Islam is more violent than other religions, such as Christianity, Mormonism, Judaism and Buddhism," reporter Neil Munro relayed from the CBS Poll. "One in 10 Democrats believe that Islam is less violent than other religions, according to the poll of 1,019 adults, which was taken Feb. 1 and Feb.

This progressive view of the world's second-largest religion is not shared by most conservatives, who believe that na-

tional security measures should be taken to counter the jihadist threat that has consistently penetrated the U.S. border for nearly two decades.

"In contrast, Republicans have a far colder view of Islam," Munro added. Sixty-three percent of Republicans view Islam as aggressive, compared to other religions, and only 2 percent view Islam as more pacifist than other faiths."

Even though the Koran calls for Muslims to kill "infidels" - those who do not submit to the god of Islam (Allah) – and leaders frequently call for fellow jihadists to forward their holy war by wiping out the "Great Satan" (the U.S.) and the "Little Satan" (Israel), a significant minority of Americans identifying with the GOP think Islam promotes peace as much as

"Still, 25 percent of Republican voters believe Islam's encouragement of violence is level with Christianity's doctrines, including the Beatitudes passage, reported by Matthew: 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God," the conservative journalist pointed out.

Shockingly, when looking at Americans as a whole, half (50 percent) say Islam encourages violence about the same as other religions. Even more surprisingly, the majority of Independents (53 percent) ascribe to this belief, while only 28 percent of this political party believes Islam is more violent than other

In stark contrast to the biblical teachings of Jesus Christ to "turn the other cheek" and Scripture telling Christians that "vengeance is God's," the Koran – which true Muslims believe is the direct transcript of many of Allah's commands directs Islamic adherents to acts of violence and various forms of brutality toward those who do not follow his ways, as seen in the two following verses.

"I will cast terror into the hearts of those who have disbelieved, so strike them over the necks, and smite over all their fingers and toes." -Koran 8/12

"Fight in the way of Allah those who

"In stark contrast to the biblical teachings of Jesus Christ to "turn the other cheek" and scripture telling Christians that "vengeance is God's," the Koran - which true Muslims believe is the direct transcript of many of Allah's commands - directs Islamic adherents to acts of violence and various forms of brutality toward those who do not follow his ways...'

> fight you but do not transgress. Indeed. Allah does not like transgressors." -Koran 2/190

> "So when you meet those who disbelieve [in battle], strike [their] necks until, when you have inflicted slaughter upon them, then secure their bonds, and either [confer] favor afterwards or ransom [them] until the war lays down its burdens."-Koran 47/4

> Obama's interpretation of the Koran's teachings as being peaceful - to support his Syrian refugee resettlement programs, Iran nuke deal and push for a Palestinian state – is argued to be nothing less than misinformed.



Muslim immigrants in Italy protest with signs and an ISIS flag.

"Former President Barack Obama and other leaders in the Democrat Party have repeatedly suggested that Islam is not more violent than other religions, Munro informed. "Obama told Muslims in February 2016 that Islam means 'peace,' although it actually means 'submission."

Three senior Democratic legislators in the U.S. House of Representatives recently proclaimed Islam to be a religion of peace, as well.

There are over three million Americans who practice Islam peacefully," the

Democratic leaders declared in a letter they signed on February 3, according to Breitbart. specter that there would be a federal

program that - in name and action singles out people of a particular faith warrants immediate [critical] consideration by the Department of Justice."

Christians the violent ones?

Left-leaning activists and journalists have often blamed Christians for violence around the world, even though they rarely claim that their hostile behavior is incited by Scripture.

"However – and this will probably shock many, so you might want to take a breath – overwhelmingly, those who have committed terrorist attacks in the United States and Europe aren't Mus-

Place your classified ad with Metro Voice

CALL TODAY: 816.524.4522

lims," a Daily Beast columnist asserted, stressing the role of European nationalist groups in terrorism rates.

Another progressive publication attempted to take the emphasis off of Islam as a promoter of terrorism by turning the argument around.

"Conservatives claim that all terrorists are Muslim, but most violent attacks in the U.S. are carried out by white men," a Salon.com article reads, with the author focusing on the murders of abortionists.

It is also argued that the mainstream media does its best to paint those concerned about Islamic terrorism as haters, isolationists and bigots, while portraying those who disassociate Islam from terrorism as champions of tolerance and

"[E]stablishment media sites have played up the pro-Western, anti-Islam views of White House officials without even trying to address the truth or falsity of the views," Munro pointed out.

He went on to note the dichotomy between the Islamic and Christian influences on societies around the world.

"In contrast, pro-Western critics of Islam routinely argue that Islam's mixture of religion and political ideology has a harmful impact on adherents and on societies," Murno added. "They argue that Islam is far more aggressive and harmful to societies than what they describe as the beneficial impact of Christianity's mix of faith and reason, freedom and law."

assifie

FULL-TIME PASTOR - The Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church, Topeka, KS, is prayerfully seeking a fulltime Pastor, called by God who will serve as the spiritual leader of the congrega-Please go to www.mountcarmeltopeka.org/apply to view the full announcement, application and position description. All interested and qualified

terials by the closing date of March 8,

HOUSEPARENT NEEDED MOTHER'S REFUGE. If you would like to work with young mothers and babies. Several shifts available.Do not need to live here. Send resumeto Kimherlee @MothersRefuge.org

MUSIC LESSONS (voice, piano, guitar,

and music theory) and tutoring available for K-12 as well as Spanish and French for more info, please call Kathleen 913-206-2151 or email: Klmamuric@yahoo.com

> RESPONSIBLE, FEMALE WRITER seeks a guiet place in exchange for help as a companion (platonic), personal assistant, housekeeper, etc. Has a business, medical, and nursing background. Would

per week depending on space provided. Due to allergies, requests smoke free. Prefers single-family residence. References available. Call Susan at (650) 930-

VOLUNTEERS WANTED: Are you looking for a way to get involved in your community? We have the perfect answer! Metro Voice seeks volunteers. 816-524-







ACCIDENT

continued from page 1

"But I felt like the Holy Spirit told me that I needed to do something, even though I didn't know what I could do," McLarty says.

Surprising his wife, Kylie, — and perhaps even himself a bit — McLarty made it past the accident scene then pulled off the to the side of the road, got out of his car, and ran back down the highway toward the injured man.

"Honestly, I was completely shocked," Kylie says, recalling Geoff's decision. "I kept thinking, What is he going to do? We had our 2-year-old son in the back seat, it was dark, and we were just trying to get home after a long day at the fair. But then I began to pray for the injured man and knew in my spirit that we were there for a reason."

When Geoff approached the hurt

man, he could tell immediately that he was in bad shape. "There was a lot of blood, I could see his head was split open, and he was making this awful gasping sound, even though he was completely unconscious," Geoff says.

"There was a lot of blood, I could see his head was split open..."

"Blood of blood, I could see his head was split open..."

"Geoff McLarty"

He grabbed the man's left hand and started praying out loud for him. While he was praying, a nurse arrived on the scene and began to feel for a pulse. She was unsure if the man had a pulse any longer, but if so, it was very faint. The nurse referred to the gasping

sounds the man had been making as what they call a "death shudder." He was now limp and motionless, but Geoff continued to pray.

When, what felt like a long time later, the Kansas Highway Patrol arrived, they immediately began performing CPR, releasing Geoff to go home. He felt certain the man was dead, and uncertain as to why he felt the Holy Spirit had told him to stop.

Arriving home, Geoff was unsettled by the experience and driven to find out who the man was and what had become of him. So through social media, he asked for help. A friend of the man's family connected with Geoff a few days later, giving him the man's estranged wife's contact information — she wanted to speak with him.

The motorcyclist's name was Jim Harmon Sr. His wife, who explained that they were in the process of getting a di-

vorce, would tell him that the police were able to revive Jim, but his heart would stop again while being airlifted to the hospital, only to be revived again. Geoff would pray over the phone with her, and would continue to pray for Jim over the next

few days before paying Jim a visit in the hospital on Friday.

"I met Jim's sister at the hospital and she thanked me for my concern, but that the doctors had said there was minimal brain activity and there was nothing



more they could do but make him comfortable. They were recommending the family 'pull the plug,'" Geoff says. "The sister had decided to wait until Tuesday so family members could make it to Wichita to say their 'good-byes' before taking him off life support."

Geoff, who had seen God restore a church member with a traumatic brain injury not long ago, understood the struggles the sister must have went through to make the difficult decision, but emboldened by the Holy Spirit and supported by prayer, he spoke the words — although somewhat daring words — God placed on his heart.

"I told her, in all due respect, God would not have brought him back twice for nothing—there's a reason Jim is still around," Geoff says. "She politely thanked me for being encouraging, but felt it was time—Jim was suppose to go home."

He then prayed over Jim, praying that

God would bring him back and bring him back fully — a brave prayer when doctors and family are convinced that Jim is nothing more than a vegetable. Nothing miraculous happened following the prayer, and Geoff left, but left thinking, God, you're going to do something big here. He continued to passionately pray for Jim on his own and with his worship team.

Tuesday came and past. No word. Out of respect for the potentially grieving family, Geoff did not impose himself, but continued to pray.

"On Thursday I was rehearsing with the worship team when I stopped and texted Jim's sister, just letting her know that I was praying for her," Geoff says. "She called me back and left a voice message..."

Geoff pauses to regain composure. Jim was still alive — not only alive, but doing amazing well! At 3 a.m. Tuesday morning, just hours before doctors

would have pulled the plug, there was dramatic improvement in Jim's condition. His brain activity spiked and now there was physical movement. The doctors were stunned!

Praises to God followed by tears of awe and joy flowed freely among the worship team. The next day, Geoff would visit Jim, where he would pray for him again, and Jim would squeeze his hand back in gratitude. Although Jim still has a long road to full recovery, he's now walking and talking, far exceeding anything the doctors conceived as a possibility. In fact, Jim is in the process of being transferred to a rehab facility closer to family in Arizona.

But as obviously meaningful to Jim and his family was God's answer to prayer, it has also bolstered the faith of Geoff, the worship team, and those attending his church.

"This experience has truly showed me the power of praying without ceasing," Kylie McLarty says. "Even when all hope is lost, keep praying. You never know when God can just show up and turn things around."

Geoff agrees, adding, "I've prayed hundreds of thousands of prayers and seen God work amazing miracles, but God knew I needed encouragement. He strengthened my faith through my obedience . . . and I just can't emphasize enough, never give up! Always listen to the Holy Spirit and be obedient. There's no telling what God can and will do through and in you."

PRISON

continued from page 1

second county in the nation to operate a drug court for non-violent offenders as an alternative to incarceration.

Although recidivism rates for repeat offenders are 54 percent in Missouri, 45 percent in Kansas and 75 to 80 percent nationwide, the Kansas City Drug Court boasts a recidivism rate of just 4 percent, with 96 percent of graduates remaining conviction free from repeat offenses after graduating. Drug Court classes include stringent accountabilities as a condition for graduation, and involve anger and case management; individual and group counseling; prevention; substance abuse treatment; and employment training and placement. According to the Jackson County website, "100 percent of Drug Court graduates are employed full-time or in school full-time at the time of their graduation."

George Williams, assistant director for faith-based and community initiatives for Kansas, was a founding partner in helping facilitate the Kansas City Drug Court in the 1990s. He emphasizes that the court was not in formal partnership with faith-based organizations, although faith-based leaders and organization had contributing roles.

"I believe as many others that the faith community is essential in addressing the social needs of the most vulnerable people in our communities," he said.

As a director for the urban fathering initiative for the National Center for Fathering, Williams provided training for fathers participating in drug court about their vital roles in the lives of their chil-

dren."

Even though Kansas City's Drug Court, which has become a national and global model for success, represents alternatives to incarceration of prisoners, the challenges facing inmates in Kansas and Missouri are formidable. The model has not gone unnoticed by Missouri's Supreme Court justices. Each year, one of justice gives a State of the Judiciary Address to a joint session of the Missouri General Assembly. That address has consistently called on legislators to appropriate more funding for alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders.

Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens made the role of faith-based organizations in state prisons a prominent theme in his first State of the State address. "We must reform our corrections system" and "we need to find ways to reduce recidivism," he said

Greitens, who is Jewish, called on faith-communities to partner with Missouri prisons: "To tackle this problem, we need to engage groups from across society: most importantly our faith community. I have seen that a turn towards faith can actually save lives in prison. And I will welcome our churches and our synagogues into our corrections facilities."

Rev. Gene Purtle, Chaplain for the Jackson County Detention Center, is encouraged by Greitens' comments. "Faith based programs in jails and prisons bring proven positive outcomes, not just in the long term rehabilitative impact on the inmates, but in the day to day interaction between staff and inmates in the facility," Purtle told the Metro Voice.

On the Kansas side, many faith-based



Gov. Greitens meets with law enforcement. One goal is to build support for both prisoners and officers.

organizations are providing support to prisoners while they are incarcerated, as well as assistance upon reentry into society. Thomas A. "Artie" Lucas serves as executive director of Brothers in Blue Reentry Inc., an offshoot of the Inner-Change Freedom Initiative and Prison Fellowship, which was founded by the late Charles Colson.

Lucas leads his organization in helping prisoners in the Lansing Correctional Facility. According to Lucas, Brothers in Blue sees a recidivism rate of just 7 percent among inmates participating in their faith-based and Christcentered" programming.

Working Men of Christ Ministry Inc. is another faith-based prison ministry serving inmates in Kansas. Executive Director Spencer Lindsay told the Metro Voice that this ministry serves inmates at the Topeka Correctional Facility, the state penitentiary in Lansing and at the Hutchinson Correctional Facility.

Like Brother in Blue, Working Men of Christ Ministry provides both program supports to prisoners during incarceration and transitional supports upon release from prison and reentry into society. According to a recent newsletter, Working Men of Christ operates four transitional homes in Wichita and one in Topeka.

"I always tell inmates, 'Change is not change, unless something changes," says Bill Corum, founder of Prison Power Ministries.

Corum would know. The self-described underworld enforcer and drug dealer says after his arrest and imprisonment in 1984 in Holden, Mo., he experienced a conversion to Christ and spiritual transformation, leading to his founding of a prison ministry with a national impact. He said that in 30 years of prison ministry, he had seen thousands of men and women try many different things to bring change in their lives.

Corum's book The Ultimate Pardon has been distributed to nearly 50,000 inmates in over 200 prisons throughout the country. On January 6, three days before leaving office, Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon pardoned Corum, leaving him with a record cleared of all felony convictions. The action by Nixon, a Democrat, was well received by those on both sides of the political aisle.

Corum expressed great hope after Greitens' State of the State address, welcoming churches and synagogues into Missouri's correctional facilities.

"I know that after almost 40 years as a rebellious law breaker, and now 33 years as a completely different person, that real change comes from the inside out," Corum said.

Corum's support echoed the sentiments of Williams, Lucas and Lindsay, telling the Metro Voice, "lasting change comes through faith in Jesus and an ongoing relationship with Him." He said one way to accomplish this is to "have Christian mentors going into the prisons and meeting regularly with the inmates who desire that change."

Lucas and Lindsay both emphasized the importance of transitional supports, such as housing, education and employment assistance for released prisoners reentering society.

Chaplain Purtle says the church must get involved and understand the need for such involvement. "Interaction with 'criminals' makes people nervous. Yet when I speak at churches I always ask how many have an incarcerated loved one," Purtle said, "The number of hands is always surprisingly high. This is our problem to address."

moreinformation

- jacksoncountycombat.com/168/Drug-Court
- prisonpowerministries.org
- brothersinbluereentry.org
- workingmenofchristministry.com
- theultmatepardon.com



Christian EDUCATION EXPO

Saturday, March 4 • 10am — 2pm
At Colonial Presbyterian Church • 9500 Wornall, KCMO
Just north of I-435 at 95th and Wornall Rd. in South Kansas City

20 K-12 Schools, Homeschool 50 Colleges from 17 States!

Plus, FREE SEMINARS

- K-12 Options: Parent Panel Discussion Homeschooling 101
 - Preparing for the College ACT and more!
 - Finding the Most Financial Aid With FAFSA

metro

816-524-4522 #K12KCExpo #KCCollegeExpo MetroVoiceNews.com

MEDIA PARTNERS

Bott Radio Network





New for 2017!

Regional K-12 Open Houses

• Lee's Summit/Jackson County: March 6, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Gamber Community Center

 Northland: March 7, 6:00-8:00 p.m. **Gladstone Community Center**

Johnson County: March 9, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Tomahawk Ridge Community Center